

By: Lewis

H.R. No. 112

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Andrews County are gathering in Austin
2 to celebrate Andrews County Day at the State Capitol on January 14,
3 2009; and

4 WHEREAS, Set under the wide-open skies of West Texas, Andrews
5 County is part of the high plains of the Permian Basin; the region
6 may have been inhabited as early as 6,000 B.C., and archaeological
7 remains show the presence of the Anasazi people more than a thousand
8 years ago; more recently, the county was home to Apache and Comanche
9 tribes until the mid-1870s; and

10 WHEREAS, Andrews County was formed from Bexar County on
11 August 21, 1876, and named for Richard Andrews, the first man to die
12 in the Texas War for Independence in 1835; the town of Andrews was
13 established around 1908, and it became the county seat in 1910; and

14 WHEREAS, In its earliest days, the county's economy was
15 dominated by ranching; the vast Chicago Ranch founded by the
16 Midwestern meat packer Nelson Morris included 228,000 acres in
17 Andrews County; by 1910, the county's population was 975 people and
18 54,000 head of cattle; and

19 WHEREAS, Attempts to farm in the county were hampered by lack
20 of water, but landowners ultimately had success with extensive
21 windmill systems; by the mid-20th century, cotton and sorghum had
22 become leading crops in the county; and

23 WHEREAS, The discovery of oil and natural gas led to a boom in
24 the 1940s, thanks largely to the efforts of oilman J. W. Triplehorn;

1 with the increased economic activity, the county's population
2 climbed to 5,000 by 1950; today, Andrews County continues to be one
3 of the state's leaders in oil and gas production, and it has
4 produced more than two billion barrels of oil since 1929; ranching
5 and agribusiness continue to thrive as well; the Andrews
6 Independent School District has established a tradition of academic
7 excellence, having won top honors at the district UIL academic
8 competition 39 out of the past 43 years; and

9 WHEREAS, Citizens and visitors alike enjoy the fine
10 opportunities for recreation in the area, including the Andrews
11 County Golf Course and the parks that are found in the city of
12 Andrews and elsewhere in the county; local artists display their
13 talents in the annual Andrews Art Guild Show, and the county boasts
14 two annual bluegrass festivals; in addition, the Andrews County
15 Library features the work of best-selling Christian author Max
16 Lucado, a graduate of Andrews High School, whose 50 books have sold
17 28 million copies; and

18 WHEREAS, Blessed to live in an area with a rich history and
19 abundant natural resources, the people of Andrews County may take
20 justifiable pride in the region they call home, and it is truly a
21 pleasure to join in celebrating their shared heritage and
22 accomplishments; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
24 Legislature hereby recognize January 14, 2009, as Andrews County
25 Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation
26 sincere best wishes for an enjoyable visit to Austin.