

By: Hamilton

H.R. No. 171

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Civic leaders from Hardin, Jasper, Newton, and Tyler
2 Counties are gathering in Austin to celebrate Southeast Texas Days
3 at the State Capitol from January 25 through 27, 2009; and

4 WHEREAS, Home to scenic waterways and the dense forest known
5 as the Big Thicket, this unique region of the Lone Star State is one
6 of the most biologically diverse areas in the world, with 85 species
7 of trees, approximately 1,000 species of flowering plants, and more
8 than 180 varieties of birds; and

9 WHEREAS, The history of this verdant region is equally rich,
10 a saga stretching from the days when Atakapa, Caddo, and
11 Alabama-Coushatta hunted bear amid the pines and cypress, through
12 the rise of the lumber industry in the late 1800s and the oil boom of
13 the early 20th century; today, Southeast Texas is home to many
14 friendly, forward-looking communities that are building an even
15 brighter future on the foundation laid by those who came before; and

16 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of the Lumberton, Silsbee, and
17 Kountze Chambers of Commerce and economic development
18 corporations, Hardin County is encouraging business growth and
19 diversifying its economy to encompass manufacturing, agriculture,
20 and tourism; in addition to the many new residents who have made
21 their homes here in recent years, the county draws a host of
22 visitors who come especially to hike and go birding in the Big
23 Thicket National Preserve and to enjoy the exciting annual
24 MusicFest; and

1 WHEREAS, Timber and oil undergird the economy of Jasper
2 County, where the fine opportunities for fishing and boating on
3 Lake Sam Rayburn and B. A. Steinhagen Lake lure vacationers from
4 across the state; the Jasper/Lake Sam Rayburn Area Chamber of
5 Commerce is working to expand the county's business resources,
6 while the Jasper Economic Development Corporation has created a
7 500-acre industrial park adjacent to a county-owned airport with a
8 mile-long runway; in the southern part of the county, the Buna
9 Chamber of Commerce welcomes everyone to the "small town with a big
10 heart"; and

11 WHEREAS, Picturesque Newton County, with its forested hills
12 and valleys, offers residents and visitors alike fine boating,
13 fishing, hiking, and birding at Toledo Bend Reservoir and Wild
14 Azalea Canyons; the Newton Economic and Community Development
15 Corporations are providing recently established and longtime
16 businesses with vital support, and the Newton County Chamber of
17 Commerce has led in renovating the courthouse square and upgrading
18 the county's fiber-optic network; and

19 WHEREAS, Tyler County is a prime destination for hikers,
20 boaters, birders, and fishermen, with two state parks and access to
21 B. A. Steinhagen Lake and sections of the Big Thicket National
22 Preserve; in the spring, Woodville, the county seat, hosts the
23 popular Tyler County Dogwood Festival, which includes the Festival
24 of the Arts and the Western Weekend rodeo and dance; among its other
25 endeavors, the Tyler County Chamber of Commerce is engaged in
26 promoting the county to those who are looking for a desirable place
27 to retire; and

1 WHEREAS, Conveniently close to Beaumont and Houston and
2 blessed with great natural beauty and abundant resources, the
3 counties of Hardin, Jasper, Newton, and Tyler make up a distinctive
4 region of the Lone Star State, and their hardworking citizens can
5 take great pride in their heritage, achievements, and enterprising
6 spirit; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
8 Legislature hereby recognize January 25 through 27, 2009, as
9 Southeast Texas Days at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting
10 delegation sincere best wishes for a memorable and meaningful stay
11 in Austin.