

By: Paxton

H.R. No. 295

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents from Collin County are gathering at the  
2 State Capitol on February 9-10, 2009, to celebrate Collin County  
3 Days, and this event provides an opportunity to pay tribute to this  
4 prosperous area in North Texas; and

5 WHEREAS, Once inhabited by the Caddo Indians, the county is  
6 located almost entirely within the state's Blackland Prairie, a  
7 region of prime farmland that began attracting settlers in the  
8 early 1840s; both the county, which was created in 1846, and the  
9 present county seat, McKinney, which was established in 1849, were  
10 named in honor of pioneer resident Collin McKinney, a signer of the  
11 Texas Declaration of Independence; and

12 WHEREAS, Today, Collin County encompasses a portion of the  
13 dynamic Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex; it has experienced one of the  
14 fastest growth rates in Texas in recent years, and much of its 886  
15 square miles has been transformed into a bustling urban area; more  
16 than 750,000 people now make their home in Collin County, with an  
17 average of 94 new residents arriving each day; and

18 WHEREAS, McKinney, one of the county's many booming  
19 municipalities, boasts a population of nearly 105,000; this  
20 historic community has been named the second-safest city in Texas  
21 in its size category by Morgan Quitno Press, ranked 14th among the  
22 "Best Places to Live" by *Money* magazine, and recognized as one of  
23 the "Top 100" places to raise a family by *Best Life* magazine;  
24 moreover, the city's Main Street program has been jointly

1 recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the  
2 Texas Historical Commission; and

3 WHEREAS, With a population of more than 260,000, Plano is the  
4 largest city in the county and a thriving business center; visitors  
5 to this community can enjoy shops and malls with pleasant amenities  
6 and a restored downtown square, which features brick sidewalks,  
7 turn-of-the-century lampposts, and numerous specialty stores,  
8 galleries, and restaurants; and

9 WHEREAS, The city of Allen, home to two especially well-known  
10 residents, Olympic gold medal-winning gymnast Carly Patterson and  
11 artist Amanda Dunbar, is yet another fast-growing town; Allen has a  
12 population of more than 75,000, and its citizens are dedicated to  
13 the development of a quality community with a top-ranked education  
14 system, family-oriented residential areas, innovative recreational  
15 facilities, and premier business developments; and

16 WHEREAS, The site now occupied by the city of Frisco was once  
17 a Native American campground; with the arrival of the railroad in  
18 the county in the 1870s and the subsequent growth of the area's  
19 cotton industry, Frisco became a commercial center for farmers and  
20 ranchers; incorporated in 1902, the town grew slowly until the late  
21 1980s, when it had a population of 5,000; today that figure stands  
22 at more than 100,000, and the city serves as a hub of regional and  
23 international business; Frisco is home to several international  
24 companies, as well as FC Dallas, a major league soccer team, and the  
25 Dallas Stars hockey team; the town has also emerged as a vibrant  
26 arts scene; and

27 WHEREAS, Other communities add much to Collin County's

1 allure; Parker is the home of gymnast Nastia Liukin, winner of a  
2 2008 Olympic gold medal, and also the home of Southfork Ranch, the  
3 filming location for the television series *Dallas*; Wylie, another  
4 great place to call home, numbers 40,000 residents and can claim a  
5 coveted ISO Class 1 Fire Protection Rating, an outstanding school  
6 district, and an annual championship rodeo, as well as significant  
7 investments in infrastructure; Celina has gained statewide fame for  
8 its Bobcats high school football team, which has captured eight  
9 state titles; true to its name, the town of Prosper has grown larger  
10 in recent years and now has excellent access to the Metro area,  
11 thanks to the recent opening of a Dallas North Tollway extension;  
12 the community's residents are especially appreciative of their  
13 skilled firefighters and paramedics, whose courage and quick action  
14 have saved lives; and

15       WHEREAS, Farmersville is the hometown of Audie Murphy, the  
16 most decorated American combat soldier of World War II, while the  
17 community of Princeton served during that same war as a German  
18 prisoner-of-war camp; the city of Murphy celebrated the 50th  
19 anniversary of its incorporation on September 27, 2008, though  
20 settlement in the area dates back to 1846; Melissa, platted in 1872,  
21 is now a leading supplier of building materials; and

22       WHEREAS, In addition to the foregoing, citizens from the  
23 communities of Anna, Blue Ridge, Copeville, Fairview, Josephine,  
24 Lavon, Lowry Crossing, Lucas, Nevada, New Hope, St. Paul,  
25 Westminster, and Weston, along with parts of Dallas, Garland,  
26 Richardson, Royse City, and Sachse, have played an important part  
27 in preserving Collin County's rich heritage and contributing to its

1 flourishing, diversified economy; and

2           WHEREAS, An exemplary educational system is critical to the  
3 strength of any community, and *Forbes* magazine has lauded Collin  
4 County schools for their impressive performance; county residents  
5 are also proud of their high school athletic programs, which last  
6 year saw four teams, from Allen, Prosper, Celina, and Wylie,  
7 compete for state football championships; the Prosper High School  
8 Eagles took the 2008 Class 3A Division 1 High School Football  
9 Championship, and the Allen High School Eagles won the 5A Division 1  
10 Football Championship; and

11           WHEREAS, The citizens of this notable North Texas county are  
12 working to preserve the best of their past even as they look forward  
13 to a bright and promising future; now, therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
15 Legislature hereby recognize February 9-10, 2009, as Collin County  
16 Days at the State Capitol and extend sincere best wishes to all  
17 those Collin County residents who have traveled to Austin for this  
18 event.