

By: Laubenberg

H.R. No. 457

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Proud residents of Rockwall County are gathering in  
2 Austin on February 17, 2009, to celebrate Rockwall County Day at the  
3 State Capitol; and

4           WHEREAS, Situated on the gently rolling Blackland Prairie of  
5 North Texas, the region was originally inhabited by the Caddo and  
6 Cherokee; the first European resident, John O. Heath, settled on  
7 the East Fork of the Trinity River in 1846; Rockwall County was  
8 established in 1873, taking its name from an underground rock  
9 formation discovered by farmers who were digging a well; and

10           WHEREAS, An important center for cotton production for many  
11 years, Rockwall County today boasts a population of nearly 70,000  
12 people who enjoy being in close proximity to the Dallas-Fort Worth  
13 Metroplex while savoring the relaxed and comfortable way of life in  
14 the county's many thriving communities; and

15           WHEREAS, The City of Rowlett, on the shore of Lake Ray  
16 Hubbard, is emerging as an important regional center and will be the  
17 site of the intersection of the eastern extension of the President  
18 George Bush Turnpike and the new Blue Line Extension of DART  
19 Commuter Rail; another prosperous lakeside city is Heath, which has  
20 recently revised and adopted a comprehensive plan that reaffirms  
21 its commitment to service, orderly growth, transportation,  
22 development, and the preservation of the time-honored values  
23 cherished by its residents; and

24           WHEREAS, In 2008, voters in the City of Fate passed a home

1 rule charter by an overwhelming majority; this development promises  
2 to make that community an even more important component of the  
3 county's economy; positive change and preparation for the years  
4 ahead are also taking place in the City of McLendon-Chisholm; this  
5 is the newest city in Rockwall County but was formed from two of the  
6 oldest area communities, McLendon and Chisholm, both of which date  
7 back to the mid-1800s; and

8         WHEREAS, Rockwall, which is being designated as a Main Street  
9 City in 2009, is a fast-growing suburban community that continues  
10 its dedication to preserving its heritage and its pleasant,  
11 family-friendly atmosphere; as part of that effort, the city's  
12 Historic Preservation Advisory Board has worked with residents and  
13 civic leaders to develop a preservation plan for the Old Town  
14 Rockwall Historic District, which will help the district to remain  
15 the vibrant heart of the city; and

16         WHEREAS, Residents of Royse City are also making it a  
17 priority to carry forth the small-town way of life that has long  
18 characterized their community; designated as a Main Street City in  
19 2008, the town has established a Heritage Committee and ordinance  
20 and design guidelines in order to revitalize the historical  
21 district, and it also benefits from a strong chamber of commerce  
22 that supports local businesses; and

23         WHEREAS, Throughout Rockwall County, citizens have done an  
24 outstanding job of maintaining long-cherished hometown values and  
25 an inspiring sense of community even as they look forward to the  
26 opportunities of the future, and their ongoing success in these  
27 endeavors has made the county an exceptional place to live, work,

1 and raise a family; now, therefore, be it

2           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
3 Legislature hereby recognize February 17, 2009, as Rockwall County  
4 Day at the State Capitol and extend to all those residents here  
5 today best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable visit.