

By: Swinford

H.R. No. 541

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Citizens from Amarillo and other communities  
2 located in the Texas Panhandle are visiting Austin on February 24,  
3 2009, to pay tribute to their region's rich heritage and to  
4 celebrate Panhandle Day at the State Capitol; and

5           WHEREAS, The Panhandle is a thriving region of the state and  
6 home to one of the oldest inhabited places in Texas; stretching  
7 through the northern part of the region is Palo Duro Canyon, the  
8 second-largest canyon in the country, which boasts spectacular  
9 views and reveals through its exposed strata a geologic record  
10 spanning 250 million years; and

11           WHEREAS, Rich in history, the region is also known for its  
12 traditional ranch lands, crop and meat production, large stretches  
13 of oil and gas reserves, major industry, and a nationally  
14 recognized workforce; and

15           WHEREAS, Amarillo, the principal northern city of the  
16 Panhandle, is a dynamic urban center with a population of almost  
17 175,000 and a wide array of cultural amenities; contributing to  
18 Amarillo's economic vitality are a Bell Helicopter tilt-rotor  
19 assembly center, where the V-22 Osprey and the US101 presidential  
20 helicopters are assembled, as well as the only assembly-disassembly  
21 plant for the nation's nuclear weapons arsenal, a facility operated  
22 by BWXT Pantex for the United States Department of Energy's  
23 National Nuclear Security Administration; and

24           WHEREAS, A region of many exemplary citizens and community

1 leaders, the Texas Panhandle is also home to excellent educational  
2 institutions; the Texas Tech University System, including its  
3 medical, law, and pharmacy schools, and West Texas A&M University  
4 are among the premier institutions in Texas and boast  
5 ever-increasing enrollments, nationally recognized programs and  
6 faculty, and outstanding graduates; Amarillo College and South  
7 Plains College continue to be among the finest community colleges  
8 in the country, and Wayland Baptist University, Frank Phillips  
9 College, Western Texas College, and Clarendon College are all  
10 outstanding educational institutions in the area; and

11 WHEREAS, Outstanding attractions in the region include the  
12 Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, which is located on the campus  
13 of West Texas A&M University in Canyon and is the largest history  
14 museum in the state, and the Texas Tech University campus, which is  
15 host to many restored structures at the National Ranching Heritage  
16 Center, a 15-acre site tracing the evolution of ranch architecture  
17 and the history of the cattle industry in Texas; and

18 WHEREAS, The citizens of the Panhandle region are renowned  
19 for their friendliness and warmth; they have helped to build vital  
20 urban centers that serve not only a large part of Texas but also  
21 eastern New Mexico; it is a pleasure for the Texas House to pay  
22 tribute to the Panhandle of Texas and the region's fine residents;  
23 now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
25 Legislature hereby recognize February 24, 2009, as Panhandle Day at  
26 the State Capitol and extend to those individuals in attendance on  
27 this day and to their fellow citizens sincere appreciation for

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1 their contributions to the Lone Star State.