

By: Pitts

H.R. No. 610

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud citizens of Ellis County are gathering at the  
2 State Capitol on March 3, 2009, to celebrate Ellis County Day; and

3 WHEREAS, First inhabited by the Tonkawa, the region was  
4 settled by Europeans in the mid-19th century; Ellis County was  
5 officially incorporated on December 20, 1849, and named for Richard  
6 Ellis, who was president of the Convention of 1836 that led to the  
7 independence of Texas; and

8 WHEREAS, Many Czechs, Hungarians, and Germans settled in the  
9 county in the 1850s and raised cattle on the rolling Blackland  
10 Prairie; with the arrival of the Houston and Texas Central Railroad  
11 in 1872, growing cotton came to dominate the economy; and

12 WHEREAS, Today the county's diversified economy is based on  
13 agribusiness and industry; cotton and ranching continue to be  
14 important, along with the raising of wheat, sorghum, and turf  
15 grass; the county is also important in the manufacture of cement and  
16 steel and has become a major warehousing and distribution hub; and

17 WHEREAS, County seat Waxahachie is widely known as the  
18 Gingerbread City, for its lovely Victorian homes and its  
19 picturesque county courthouse; many films have been shot in the  
20 city, including the Academy Award-winning *Places in the Heart*,  
21 which was written and directed by Waxahachie native Robert Benton;  
22 half a million visitors each year are drawn by such events as the  
23 Scarborough Faire Renaissance Festival and the Crape Myrtle  
24 Festival; and

1           WHEREAS, Waxahachie's thriving business community includes  
2 the Walgreen's distribution center, the Rock-Tenn Company,  
3 Saint-Gobain Containers, the Owens-Corning fiberglass insulation  
4 plant, Victron Energy, International Extrusion, Georgia Pacific,  
5 the U.S. Aluminum Corporation, Burleson Honey, and Dartco of Texas;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, Ennis, known as the Bluebonnet City, is home to the  
8 Railroad and Cultural Heritage Museum; every Memorial Day weekend,  
9 the city hosts the National Polka Festival, a celebration of the  
10 city's Czech heritage; the Texas Motorplex, the renowned  
11 drag-racing facility, hosts 75 events annually, drawing half a  
12 million people; and

13           WHEREAS, The city's progressive economy has drawn such  
14 industries as Sterilite Corporation, GAF/Elk Corporation of Texas,  
15 Leggett & Platt Corporation, Ennis Extruded Products, Texas Ennis  
16 Business Forms, Schirm USA, Inc., Suez Energy Resources, JTEKT  
17 Automotive of Texas, Sherwin-Williams, the CVS Pharmacy  
18 distribution center, ASMO Manufacturing, Inc., Alliance Data, and  
19 the National Envelope Corporation; and

20           WHEREAS, Once known as the Cement Capital of Texas,  
21 Midlothian is now also home to such industries as Gerdau  
22 Ameristeel, TXI, the MidTexas International Center, Holcim-Texas,  
23 Ash Grove Texas, Ennis, Inc., Toys-R-Us, and the Target  
24 distribution center, as well as a new satellite campus for Navarro  
25 College; it has become a popular location for families, with its  
26 excellent school system and safe, small-town ambiance; and

27           WHEREAS, Red Oak, the "Gateway to Ellis County," balances the

1 charm and comfort of small-town life with convenient access to the  
2 Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex, and its flourishing economy,  
3 sustained residential growth, low crime rate, and award-winning  
4 school district make it a wonderful place to raise a family; and

5 WHEREAS, Dynamic and picturesque Ellis County is one of the  
6 great assets of the Lone Star State; its hardworking and innovative  
7 residents cherish their history and heritage even as they look  
8 forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead; now, therefore,  
9 be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
11 Legislature hereby recognize March 3, 2009, as Ellis County Day at  
12 the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best wishes  
13 for an informative and enjoyable stay in Austin.