

By: Fraser

S.C.R. No. 53

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CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Proud residents of West Texas are gathering in Austin to celebrate West Texas Day at the State Capitol on March 31, 2009; and

WHEREAS, With its epic history--a chronicle of Native Americans contesting for the land with frontier soldiers and settlers, of cow towns and cattle drives supplanting immense herds of buffalo, of oilmen and roughnecks developing the vast petroleum and gas fields of the Permian Basin--this famous region encompasses much of what people most readily associate with the Lone Star State; and

WHEREAS, The scenic wonders of West Texas include, in the northern reaches, the primordial grasslands of the Llano Estacado, the imposing Caprock escarpment, and the spectacular Palo Duro Canyon, while to the south lie striking landscapes of mountains, deserts, and the steeply cut canyons of the Rio Grande; and

WHEREAS, Citizens of West Texas cherish the land and the rich heritage that have shaped them and take pride in the communities and institutions they have established; among their most important creations are many fine institutions of higher learning, including Abilene Christian University and McMurry University in Abilene, West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas Tech University, the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, and Lubbock Christian University in Lubbock, Midland College in Midland, The University

1 of Texas of the Permian Basin and Odessa College in Odessa, and
2 Angelo State University in San Angelo; and

3 WHEREAS, Serving the people of West Texas are a number of
4 modern urban centers; Abilene, established in the 1880s on the line
5 of the Texas and Pacific Railway, has grown from a celebrated cattle
6 town into a thriving city of 115,000; a center for ranching and the
7 petroleum industry, it is also the site of Dyess Air Force Base,
8 home to the B-1 bomber and its crews and a staging area for troops
9 fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan; in 2002, the city gained a
10 dramatic addition to its downtown area with the opening of Frontier
11 Texas! a six-acre, state-of-the-art tourist complex that also
12 serves as the starting point for the Texas Forts Trail, a 650-mile
13 heritage tour through 29 counties; and

14 WHEREAS, Located in the heart of the Panhandle and at the
15 center of the largest natural gas field in the world, Amarillo has
16 built its prosperity on gas, petroleum, agriculture, and cattle; in
17 addition, the city has several major defense plants, including
18 Pantex and Bell Helicopter Textron; residents enjoy such cultural
19 amenities as opera, ballet, symphonic music, theater at the Globe
20 News Center for the Performing Arts, and the Panhandle-Plains
21 Historical Museum, while the nearby Cadillac Ranch ranks as one of
22 the nation's truly unique tourist attractions; and

23 WHEREAS, Lubbock, a center for agribusiness, distribution,
24 and manufacturing, is also widely known for its outstanding medical
25 facilities, for its comprehensive National Ranching Heritage
26 Center, and for a renowned archeological site, the Lubbock Lake
27 Landmark; the birthplace, moreover, of rock and roll legend Buddy

1 Holly, Lubbock has played an influential role in the growth of Texas
2 music, nurturing such artists as Waylon Jennings, Joe Ely, Jimmie
3 Dale Gilmore, and Butch Hancock; and

4 WHEREAS, Long identified with the oil business, Midland
5 continues to be an administrative and financial center for that
6 industry; its cultural attractions include the Petroleum Museum,
7 the Museum of the Southwest, and the American Airpower Heritage
8 Museum, a world-famous collection of vintage World War II aircraft
9 that was initially developed by the Commemorative Air Force; and

10 WHEREAS, Odessa claims the distinction of being home to the
11 largest inland petrochemical complex in the world; another facet of
12 the community's identity is reflected in the venerable Sandhills
13 Stock Show and Rodeo, the first rodeo of the season for the nearly
14 one thousand men and women competing on the tour of the Professional
15 Rodeo Cowboys Association; the city also boasts a replica of
16 Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, the Ellen Noel Art Museum, the Parker
17 House Ranching Museum, and the Presidential Museum, the only museum
18 in the United States solely dedicated to the office of the
19 presidency; and

20 WHEREAS, San Angelo's colorful frontier history lives on at
21 Fort Concho, one of the best preserved forts in the country and now
22 a national historic landmark; at one time the largest range cattle
23 shipping station in the United States, San Angelo continues to be a
24 national leader in the processing and shipping of wool and mohair,
25 while it also benefits from a highly diversified industrial sector;
26 Goodfellow Air Force Base, established at San Angelo in 1940,
27 further contributes to the city's economy, as well as to the

1 nation's defense; and

2 WHEREAS, With its striking vistas, abundant natural
3 resources, and energetic, hardworking people, West Texas is engaged
4 in building a future that promises to be as dynamic and exciting as
5 its storied past; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
7 hereby recognize March 31, 2009, as West Texas Day at the State
8 Capitol and extend sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and
9 memorable visit to all those who have traveled here for this special
10 occasion.