

By: Lewis

H.R. No. 156

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Midland and Odessa are gathering  
2 in Austin on February 15, 2011, to celebrate Midland-Odessa Day at  
3 the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Set only 20 miles apart in the ranching and oil  
5 country of West Texas, these vibrant Texas cities got their start as  
6 stops on the Texas and Pacific Railway in the 1880s; by 1890,  
7 Midland was one of the most important centers for shipping cattle in  
8 Texas; and

9 WHEREAS, Odessa began its rapid growth with the discovery of  
10 oil in the Permian Basin in the 1920s, and by the 1940s, it had grown  
11 from 750 residents to 10,000; by 1929, Midland was home to 36 oil  
12 companies, and the demand for oil during World War II helped Odessa  
13 develop as a major processor and distributor of petroleum products,  
14 home to the largest inland petrochemical complex in the world; and

15 WHEREAS, Today, Midland continues to be the financial and  
16 administrative capital of the Permian Basin, while Odessa remains  
17 the center for the region's oil processing and distribution;  
18 looking to the future, the Midland Development Corporation and the  
19 Odessa Development Corporation are working to strengthen and  
20 diversify the area's economy; and

21 WHEREAS, Midland is proud to be the hometown of former  
22 president George W. Bush and former first lady Laura Bush, as well  
23 as the longtime home of former president George H. W. Bush, former  
24 first lady Barbara Bush, and former Florida governor Jeb Bush; and

1           WHEREAS, Odessa and Midland boast many fine historical and  
2 cultural attractions; in Odessa, the Presidential Museum is one of  
3 only a few museums in the nation dedicated to the history of the  
4 presidency, while the Parker House Museum evokes the life of a  
5 prominent Texas ranching family; visitors and residents alike enjoy  
6 the live productions at the replica of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre  
7 on the campus of Odessa College; and

8           WHEREAS, Midland's Museum of the Southwest offers displays of  
9 the art and archaeology of the American Southwest, and the  
10 interactive exhibits of the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum present  
11 the geology and history of oil in West Texas; the American Airpower  
12 Heritage Museum of the Commemorative Air Force depicts the history  
13 of the U.S. Air Force during World War II; the Midland Festival  
14 Ballet, the Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale, and the Midland  
15 Community Theatre offer live performances that inspire and  
16 entertain; and

17           WHEREAS, For more than a century, the dynamic cities of  
18 Midland and Odessa have been at the economic and cultural hub of  
19 West Texas, and their citizens continue to celebrate their rich  
20 history as they work hard to build a prosperous future; now,  
21 therefore, be it

22           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
23 Legislature hereby recognize February 15, 2011, as Midland-Odessa  
24 Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best  
25 wishes for a memorable and meaningful stay in Austin.