

By: Price

H.R. No. 504

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of the Texas Panhandle are gathering in
2 Austin on February 22, 2011, to pay tribute to their region's rich
3 heritage and to celebrate Panhandle Day at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, One of the oldest inhabited areas of Texas, where
5 vast grasslands once thrived, the Panhandle is crossed by the
6 Canadian and Red Rivers, rests over the southern tip of the Ogallala
7 Aquifer, and offers breathtaking views of Palo Duro Canyon; in the
8 1880s, three million acres of Panhandle land that was traded by the
9 state to finance construction of a new Texas Capitol became known as
10 the XIT Ranch; and

11 WHEREAS, Ranching became central to the Panhandle's culture
12 and economy in the late 19th century, and the arrival of the
13 railroads and dryland farming techniques expanded the role of wheat
14 and cotton farming; the discovery of oil and natural gas in the
15 1920s further diversified the economic base, and today, ranching,
16 farming, and the petroleum industry continue to be important to the
17 region; and

18 WHEREAS, Amarillo, in Potter and Randall Counties, is
19 essential to the prosperity of the Panhandle with Tyson Foods, Bell
20 Helicopter, B&W Pantex, and two health care systems all serving as
21 major employers; in addition to the city of Hereford, which is
22 regarded by many as the "Beef Capital of the World," other bedrock
23 communities in the Panhandle include Borger, Cactus, Canyon,
24 Childress, Clarendon, Dalhart, Dumas, Groom, Gruver, Pampa,
25 Panhandle, Plainview, Skellytown, Stratford, Texhoma, and

1 Whitedeer; and

2 WHEREAS, The Panhandle is home to such premier educational
3 institutions as the Texas Tech University System, with its schools
4 of medicine and pharmacy, and West Texas A&M University, both of
5 which boast nationally recognized programs and faculty; Amarillo
6 College and South Plains College continue to be among the finest
7 community colleges in the country, and Wayland Baptist University,
8 Frank Phillips College, and Clarendon College also offer an
9 outstanding education; and

10 WHEREAS, Visitors and residents alike enjoy a range of
11 attractions, including the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, the
12 largest history museum in Texas, as well as the Amarillo Museum of
13 Art, the public art installation Cadillac Ranch, and the American
14 Quarter Horse Association's international headquarters; other
15 cultural assets include the Lone Star Ballet and the Amarillo
16 Symphony; and

17 WHEREAS, Renowned for their hospitality, strong work ethic,
18 and resilience, the citizens of the Texas Panhandle may take great
19 pride in all they have done to make their region one of the
20 treasures of the Lone Star State, and it is a pleasure to pay
21 tribute to the Panhandle of Texas and the region's fine residents;
22 now, therefore, be it

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