

By: Paddie

H.R. No. 189

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Panola County are gathering in Austin
2 on February 19, 2013, to celebrate Panola County Day at the State
3 Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Located in northeastern Texas and forming part of
5 the state's border with Louisiana, Panola County covers more than
6 800 square miles of forests and rolling plains and is traversed by
7 the Sabine River; the area experienced a land rush in the 1830s as
8 settlers arrived from the southern United States; on March 30,
9 1846, the Texas Legislature officially created Panola County, and
10 two years later, voters chose Carthage as the county seat; and

11 WHEREAS, It is believed that Judge John Allison, a prominent
12 civic leader, suggested the name Panola, which may be derived from
13 the Cherokee word for cotton, *ponolo*; the area's rich soil was well
14 suited to the crop, and cotton became the county's main
15 agricultural product; today, Panola County enjoys a diversified
16 economy, primarily based in oil and gas production, agriculture,
17 food processing, and timber; the lush forests also make the county a
18 popular destination for hiking, birding, and camping enthusiasts,
19 while anglers enjoy the good fishing waters of Martin Creek Lake and
20 Murvaul Lake; and

21 WHEREAS, Home to nearly 50 Texas Historical Commission
22 markers, Panola County was the birthplace of several notable
23 Texans, including Margie Elizabeth Neal, the first woman elected to
24 serve in the Texas Senate, and country music stars Tex Ritter and

1 Jim Reeves; a museum dedicated to Mr. Ritter and a memorial devoted
2 to Mr. Reeves are located in Carthage, as is the Texas Country Music
3 Hall of Fame, which honors the legacies of both of these men, along
4 with other country music legends from the state; and

5 WHEREAS, Carthage, which was named a National Main Street
6 City in Texas in 2011, is also home to the historic Esquire Theater,
7 which plays host to the Country Music Hayride every Saturday night;
8 other popular events taking place in the county seat include the
9 Piney Woods Quilt Festival in April and the East Texas Oil and Gas
10 Blast in October, which features live music, a car show, and arts
11 and crafts; the Footprints in the Sand monument, a poignant
12 religious sculpture, is expected to be completed in the fall of
13 2013; and

14 WHEREAS, The citizens of Panola County have long made an
15 important contribution to the Lone Star State, and it is most
16 fitting that they be honored on this special day; now, therefore, be
17 it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
19 Legislature hereby recognize February 19, 2013, as Panola County
20 Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation
21 sincere best wishes for a memorable and meaningful visit to Austin.