

By: Cook

H.R. No. 270

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Palestine are gathering in Austin
2 on February 7, 2013, to celebrate Palestine Day at the State
3 Capitol, and this occasion provides a welcome opportunity to honor
4 this beautiful and historic Texas community; and

5 WHEREAS, The seat of Anderson County, Palestine was founded
6 in March 1846; it remained a largely agrarian community until 1873,
7 when tracks of the Houston and Great Northern Railroad, a precursor
8 of the International-Great Northern, reached the town; rail shops,
9 switching yards, and offices were subsequently established about a
10 mile from what came to be known as Palestine's Old Town, and a
11 second business district grew up near the rail line in the late
12 1800s; and

13 WHEREAS, With more than 1,800 historic structures, most of
14 which are located in the four National Register Historic Districts
15 and three local Palestine Historic Districts, Palestine is noted
16 for its exceptional success in preserving the historical integrity
17 of its built environment; the town has been designated a Texas Main
18 Street City, a National Main Street City, and a Preserve America
19 City; and

20 WHEREAS, Palestine is the home of the Dogwood Trails
21 Festival, which is held every March and which includes a parade,
22 arts and crafts exhibitions, and food booths in the downtown area
23 and live entertainment in the Old Town section; the town is also a
24 terminus of the Texas State Railroad, which runs steam train

1 excursions between Palestine and Rusk, in adjacent Cherokee County;
2 in November and December, the railroad has a special Polar Express
3 trip for children, inspired by the Chris Van Allsburg novel of the
4 same name; and

5 WHEREAS, Another notable institution in the city is the NASA
6 Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility, which is managed by the
7 Physical Science Laboratory of New Mexico State University; the
8 CSBF provides launching, tracking, and recovery services for
9 unmanned high-altitude research balloons, and over the years the
10 facility has launched more than 1,700 such devices; and

11 WHEREAS, Palestine city government, the Palestine Economic
12 Development Corporation, and local citizens, businesses, and civic
13 organizations have done an exceptional job of preserving the city's
14 history and charm while creating a vibrant community for residents
15 and visitors alike; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
17 Legislature hereby recognize February 7, 2013, as Palestine Day at
18 the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere
19 best wishes for a productive and memorable visit to Austin.