

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of the Texas Panhandle are gathering
2 in Austin on February 19, 2013, to celebrate Panhandle Day at the
3 State Capitol, and this occasion offers a welcome opportunity to
4 honor their region's rich heritage and many noteworthy features;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, One of the oldest inhabited areas of Texas, the
7 Panhandle is crossed by the Canadian and Red Rivers, rests over the
8 southern tip of the Ogallala Aquifer, and offers breathtaking views
9 of Palo Duro Canyon; its vast rolling plains were once roamed by
10 Paleo-Indian hunters, long before Francisco Vazquez de Coronado
11 became the first European to reach the area in 1541; it remained
12 contested territory throughout much of its history, until the
13 Compromise of 1850, when it assumed its modern boundaries; and

14 WHEREAS, Ranching became central to the Panhandle's culture
15 and economy in the late 19th century; during this time, two of the
16 area's major ranches were established: JA Ranch, which began in
17 1876 when Charles Goodnight arrived with a herd of longhorn cattle
18 from Colorado, and XIT Ranch, which was formed in the 1880s from
19 three million acres of Panhandle land traded by the state to finance
20 construction of a new Texas Capitol; the regional economy was
21 further diversified with the advent of the railroads and dryland
22 farming techniques, which led to a greater role for wheat and cotton
23 farming, and the discovery of oil and natural gas in the 1920s;
24 today, the agriculture, oil and gas, and wind industries continue

1 to be important to the region; and

2 WHEREAS, Amarillo, in Potter and Randall Counties, is
3 essential to the prosperity of the Panhandle, with Tyson Foods,
4 Bell Helicopter, Pantex, and two health care systems all serving as
5 major employers; the nearby town of Canyon offers access to Palo
6 Duro Canyon State Park, home to the long-running outdoor musical
7 drama *Texas*, which chronicles the story of Panhandle settlers in
8 the 1800s; other notable communities include Pampa, the second
9 largest city in the Panhandle and a commercial center for oil and
10 livestock, Dalhart, which hosts the annual XIT Rodeo and Reunion,
11 and Hereford, regarded by many as the "Beef Capital of the World";
12 and

13 WHEREAS, The Panhandle is home to such premier educational
14 institutions as the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center,
15 with its schools of medicine, pharmacy, and allied health sciences,
16 and West Texas A&M University, both of which boast nationally
17 recognized programs and faculty; Amarillo College and South Plains
18 College continue to be among the finest community colleges in the
19 country, and Wayland Baptist University, Frank Phillips College,
20 and Clarendon College also offer an outstanding education; and

21 WHEREAS, Visitors and residents alike enjoy a range of
22 attractions, including the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, the
23 largest history museum in Texas, and such cultural assets as the
24 Amarillo Museum of Art, the Lone Star Ballet, and the Amarillo
25 Symphony; moreover, the adventurous can drive the length of the
26 legendary Route 66 through Texas, starting in Glen Rio and passing
27 through Amarillo's popular historic district and the towns of

1 Adrian, Vega, Groom, and McLean, before ending their journey near
2 Shamrock; and

3 WHEREAS, Known for their hospitality, strong work ethic, and
4 resilience, the citizens of the Texas Panhandle may take great
5 pride in all they have done to make their region one of the
6 treasures of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
8 Legislature hereby recognize February 19, 2013, as Panhandle Day at
9 the State Capitol and extend to the visiting guests sincere best
10 wishes for a meaningful and memorable stay in Austin.

Price
Smithee
King of Hemphill
Springer

Straus	M. Gonzalez of El Paso	Oliveira
Allen	N. Gonzalez of El Paso	Orr
Alonzo	Gooden	Otto
Alvarado	Guerra	Paddie
Anchia	Guillen	Parker
Anderson	Gutierrez	Patrick
Ashby	Harless	Perez
Aycock	Harper-Brown	Perry
Bell	Hernandez Luna	Phillips
Bohac	Herrero	Pickett
Bonnen of Brazoria	Hilderbran	Pitts
Bonnen of Galveston	Howard	Price
Branch	Huberty	Raney
Burkett	Hughes	Ratliff
Burnam	Hunter	Raymond
Button	Isaac	Reynolds
Callegari	Johnson	Riddle
Canales	Kacal	Ritter
Capriglione	Keffer	Rodriguez of Bexar
Carter	King of Hemphill	Rodriguez of Travis
Clardy	King of Parker	Rose
Coleman	King of Taylor	Sanford
Collier	King of Zavala	Schaefer
Cook	Kleinschmidt	Sheets
Cortez	Klick	Sheffield of Bell
Craddick	Kolkhorst	Sheffield of Coryell
Creighton	Krause	Simmons
Crownover	Kuempel	Simpson
Dale	Larson	Smith
Darby	Laubenberg	Smithee
Davis of Dallas	Lavender	Springer
J. Davis of Harris	Leach	Stephenson
S. Davis of Harris	Lewis	Stickland
Deshotel	Longoria	Strama
Dukes	Lozano	Taylor
Dutton	Lucio III	Thompson of Brazoria
Eiland	Marquez	Thompson of Harris
Elkins	Martinez	Toth
Fallon	Martinez Fischer	Turner of Collin
Farias	McClendon	Turner of Harris
Farney	Menendez	Turner of Tarrant
Farrar	Miles	Villalba
Fletcher	Miller of Comal	Villarreal
Flynn	Miller of Fort Bend	Vo
Frank	Moody	Walle
Frullo	Morrison	White
Geren	Munoz, Jr.	Workman
Giddings	Murphy	Wu
Goldman	Naishtat	Zedler
Gonzales	Nevarez	Zerwas

H.R. No. 473

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 473 was adopted by the House on February 19, 2013, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House