

By: Price

H.R. No. 473

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.