

By: Lavender

H.R. No. 656

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Many proud citizens of Lamar County are visiting the  
2 State Capitol on March 27, 2013, to celebrate the prominent role  
3 this Northeast Texas county has played in the annals of the Lone  
4 Star State; and

5           WHEREAS, At the time of the Republic of Texas, present-day  
6 Lamar County was located within the boundaries of Red River County;  
7 population growth led the Fifth Congress of the republic to  
8 establish Lamar County on December 17, 1840, and the current  
9 boundaries were drawn 30 years later when a portion of land was  
10 carved out for the creation of Delta County; and

11           WHEREAS, Lamar County's namesake was the fourth president of  
12 the Republic of Texas, Mirabeau B. Lamar; the small settlement of  
13 Lafayette served as the first county seat, but after the Texas  
14 Congress passed a law requiring that each county seat be located  
15 within five miles of the county's geographic center, Mount Vernon  
16 served briefly in that capacity until the town of Paris was founded  
17 on 50 acres donated by George W. Wright; Paris has served as the  
18 county seat since 1844; and

19           WHEREAS, Numerous early settlers migrated to Lamar County  
20 through Tennessee and Kentucky and established small farms; at the  
21 turn of the century, the county remained primarily rural, and  
22 although the population of Paris had grown to more than 9,000, no  
23 other community exceeded 1,000 residents; the industrial economy  
24 gradually began to make gains on agriculture in the 20th century as

1 people moved into towns and smaller communities, and Paris played  
2 an increasingly important role in the economy of Northeast Texas;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Today, Paris is a regional hub of retail trade,  
5 farming, and medical care and home to three Fortune 500 companies,  
6 Campbell Soup Company, Kimberly-Clark Corporation, and Florida  
7 Power and Light, as well as its newest major employer, James Skinner  
8 Baking Company; the city is located within an excellent multimodal  
9 transportation network, and in addition to numerous food and  
10 consumer goods manufacturing plants, it is home to distribution  
11 centers that serve the entire nation; and

12 WHEREAS, Quality of life in Paris is enhanced by Paris Junior  
13 College and several excellent independent school districts, and by  
14 such beautiful recreation areas as Wade Park, Lake Gibbons, Lake  
15 Crook, and the Sam Bell Maxey State Historic Structure; every  
16 summer, citizens enjoy the Tour de Paris bike race along the 12-mile  
17 Trail de Paris, and concerts by the Paris Municipal Band, the oldest  
18 such ensemble in the state; landmarks include the Culbertson  
19 Fountain in the historic district, named "the prettiest plaza in  
20 the State of Texas" by *Texas Monthly* magazine, and the "third  
21 largest Eiffel Tower in the Second Largest Paris," a 65-foot-tall  
22 monument constructed by local workers and capped, appropriately,  
23 with a cowboy hat; and

24 WHEREAS, The industrious residents of this vibrant Texas  
25 county are preserving the best of their past while working to meet  
26 the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, and it is indeed a  
27 pleasure to honor them at this time; now, therefore, be it

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1           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
2 Legislature hereby recognize March 27, 2013, as Lamar County Day at  
3 the State Capitol and extend to the delegation sincere best wishes  
4 for an enjoyable and memorable visit.