

By: Laubenberg

H.R. No. 678

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents from Collin County are gathering at the
2 State Capitol on March 4 and 5, 2013, to celebrate Collin County
3 Days, and this event provides an opportunity to pay tribute to its
4 many prosperous communities; and

5 WHEREAS, The seventh most populous county in Texas, Collin
6 County has maintained the highest sustained growth rate for Texas
7 counties with more than 200,000 people, at 66 percent; the
8 educational level of its residents is twice that of the state and
9 national average, with 93 percent of the workforce over 25 holding a
10 high school diploma and 50 percent having earned at least a
11 bachelor's degree; and

12 WHEREAS, Collin County also ranks first in the 2011 and 2012
13 reports from the University of Wisconsin Population Health
14 Institute's Texas County Health Rankings, and it ranked sixth
15 nationwide in CNN *Money* magazine's 2012 Counties with Fastest Job
16 Growth; in addition, the county has just entered its 20th year in a
17 row with no increase in the property tax rate; and

18 WHEREAS, Plano is the largest city in the county and home to
19 such major companies as Frito-Lay, J. C. Penney Company, Inc.,
20 Ericsson, H. P. Enterprise Services, and Dr Pepper Snapple Group,
21 Inc.; recently named one of the Best Run Cities in America by 24/7
22 Wall St., this thriving municipality boasts nationally recognized
23 schools, award-winning parks, a lively historic district, and
24 multicultural neighborhoods that appeal equally to families, young

1 singles, and retirees; its excellent restaurants, vibrant shopping
2 districts, exciting entertainment venues, and active local arts
3 scene all contribute to the city's high quality of life; and

4 WHEREAS, Home of the Collin County Regional Airport, McKinney
5 hosts such major employers as Raytheon Company, Encore Wire
6 Corporation, Emerson Process Management, and Torchmark
7 Corporation; its historic downtown encompasses 130 boutiques, and
8 it has earned the number two ranking in *Money* magazine's list of
9 Best Places to Live and a place on America's Promise Alliance
10 Best Communities for Young People; and

11 WHEREAS, Allen was named among the 10 safest cities in the
12 nation in its class for the third time by CQ Press, and it has also
13 placed 13th on *Money* magazine's list of the Best Places to Live; the
14 city received the Keep Texas Beautiful Governor's Community Award
15 for its environmental efforts, and its residents are proud of the
16 2012 5A Division 1 high school football champions, the Allen
17 Eagles; and

18 WHEREAS, Frisco combines a dynamic business environment with
19 a comfortable, hometown atmosphere, and as one of the top
20 communities in the area in safety, innovation, and cultural
21 opportunities, it has been named by *Men's Journal* as the Best Place
22 to Raise an Athlete; with 130,000 residents so far and growing,
23 Frisco is on track to more than double in size in the years to come;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Ranked in the 2010 U.S. Census as the
26 third-fastest-growing city in Texas, Wylie celebrated its 125th
27 anniversary in 2012, and over the years, it has transformed from a

1 farming center into a community with a thriving business
2 environment, outstanding schools, an ISO-1 rated fire department,
3 and a police department that has lowered the crime rate by 13
4 percent; new infrastructure enhancements include \$50 million in
5 improved roads, an upgrade of the city's two parks, a new recreation
6 center, and a public library that boasts 30,000 cardholders out of
7 45,000 residents; and

8 WHEREAS, Home of The University of Texas at Dallas and the
9 Telecom Corridor, Richardson has been recognized by the Texas
10 Legislature as the official International Business Capital of North
11 Texas; the city is the site of State Farm's new lease of 1.5 million
12 square feet of office space, as well as home to the Corporate
13 Challenge, an Olympic-style competition between such companies as
14 Blue Cross Blue Shield, Southwest Airlines, Raytheon Company, and
15 Texas Instruments; the city is also host to the Wildflower! Art and
16 Music Festival, the largest such event in North Texas, and the
17 Cottonwood Art Festival, one of the top outdoor arts festivals in
18 the nation; and

19 WHEREAS, More than 80 percent of the land in the city of
20 Murphy is developed, with the addition of such exciting new
21 projects as Murphy Central Park, the Plano Sports Authority-Murphy
22 Center, and a Super Wal-Mart, as well as the expansion of Murphy
23 Road from two lanes to six; Murphy was recognized by *Money* magazine
24 as one of the top cities to live in, and it has been named as the
25 second-safest city in North Texas and the fourth-safest in the
26 state; and

27 WHEREAS, Recognized by *D Magazine* as a top 10 suburb, Prosper

1 issued more than 460 single-family housing permits in 2012 and has a
2 billion-dollar mixed-use development in the works; it is home to
3 several top housing developers, including Blue Star Development,
4 LandPlan, and Terra Verde Group; Prosper's citizens have passed a
5 \$710 million bond package for their public schools, which have
6 maintained academic excellence while experiencing a growth in
7 enrollment of 50 percent over the last three years; the city's
8 outstanding police department offers such community outreach and
9 crime prevention programs as Citizens on Patrol, the Citizens
10 Police Academy, and Prosper Community Watch, among others; and

11 WHEREAS, One of two platinum-level Scenic Cities in Texas,
12 Fairview has been recognized as a Tree City USA, earned a 2012
13 Growing Green Cities Award, and ranked 12th in *D Magazine's* Best DFW
14 Suburbs for 2012; the city is home to the first street in Texas
15 illuminated by LED lighting and is a three-time recipient of the
16 Texas Municipal League Municipal Excellence Award; the city's
17 Veterans' Park has been recognized with a Patriotic Achievement
18 Award from the Military Order of the World Wars; and

19 WHEREAS, The crossroads of the developing transportation
20 corridor in northern Collin County, Celina is growing rapidly while
21 retaining its respect for the traditional values of family and
22 heritage; its school district is rich in academic and athletic
23 achievement, with the Celina Bobcats earning pride of place as the
24 winners of eight state football championships; and

25 WHEREAS, Since its incorporation in 1959, Lucas has remained
26 a serene country oasis of spacious homes, small ranches, farms,
27 horse trails, and lakeside living; the city's emphasis on financial

1 stability and transparency has earned it the Certificate in
2 Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the
3 Government Finance Officers Association for two years in a row;
4 Lucas is also proud of its top-rated volunteer fire department,
5 whose members have especially distinguished themselves fighting
6 wildfires in recent years; and

7 WHEREAS, The citizens of Parker are proud to be living in *D*
8 *Magazine's* number one suburb in the DFW metroplex, and they also
9 enjoy a low municipal tax rate, as well as an AA bond rating; they
10 cherish their uniquely "country" lifestyle, with its large lots and
11 comfortable atmosphere, known to millions of television viewers as
12 the home of the legendary Southfork Ranch from *Dallas*; and

13 WHEREAS, Other communities add much to Collin County's
14 allure; Anna's annual Balloon Festival and its warm and welcoming
15 atmosphere charm visitors from across the country; Farmersville
16 boasts a bustling district of antique and specialty shops and has
17 earned the Texas Downtown Association's Community Spirit Award for
18 its annual celebration of hometown hero Audie Murphy, winner of the
19 Congressional Medal of Honor; the growing community of Blue Ridge
20 is committed to revitalizing its downtown, while the people of
21 Josephine are proud of their active volunteer fire department,
22 which not only protects the community but hosts such popular annual
23 events as the Easter egg hunt and the Christmas parade; and

24 WHEREAS, Also contributing to the development of Collin
25 County are the citizens of Copeville, Lavon, Lowry Crossing,
26 Melissa, Nevada, New Hope, Princeton, Royse City, Sachse, St. Paul,
27 Westminster, and Weston, along with parts of Dallas and Garland,

1 and those communities play an important part in the county's
2 flourishing, diversified economy and its commendable quality of
3 life; and

4 WHEREAS, The citizens of this notable North Texas county are
5 working to preserve the best of their past even as they look forward
6 to a bright and promising future, and they are sure to figure
7 prominently in the growth and prosperity of the Lone Star State in
8 the years ahead; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
10 Legislature hereby recognize March 4 and 5, 2013, as Collin County
11 Days at the State Capitol and extend sincere best wishes to the
12 visiting delegation for a meaningful and memorable visit to Austin.