

By: Price

H.R. No. 2820

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, During the summer of 2013, the outdoor musical drama  
2 *Texas* in Palo Duro Canyon will once again inspire and entertain  
3 audiences from across the state and the nation; and

4           WHEREAS, Now in its 48th year, this annual stage spectacular  
5 was the brainchild of Panhandle resident Margaret Pease Harper, a  
6 professor at West Texas State College in Canyon; she conceived of  
7 the idea of building an open-air amphitheater in majestic Palo Duro  
8 Canyon, and she persuaded North Carolina playwright Paul Green to  
9 write a large-scale pageant about the lives of Panhandle pioneers;  
10 and

11           WHEREAS, Pioneer Amphitheater was opened in 1962, and in the  
12 summer of 1966, the first production of *Texas* was performed there;  
13 the play's music, choreography, and direction were provided by  
14 faculty members of West Texas State, and many of the show's original  
15 cast members were students from the school; and

16           WHEREAS, Today, *Texas* is produced by the Texas Panhandle  
17 Heritage Foundation, which works to preserve the history of the  
18 Panhandle through theater; performed every evening Tuesday through  
19 Sunday from June until mid-August, the show tells the story of  
20 Calvin Armstrong, a young homesteader, and other characters include  
21 a wealthy rancher, a comic gold prospector, cowboys, pioneer women,  
22 and Quanah Parker, the last chief of the Comanche; and

23           WHEREAS, From its thrilling opening, as a rider on horseback  
24 carries the Texas flag at top speed along the rim of the canyon, to

1 its stirring conclusion under the Western stars, the outdoor  
2 musical *Texas* is truly one of the Lone Star State's cultural  
3 treasures; now, therefore, be it

4         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
5 Legislature hereby commemorate the 2013 production of *Texas* and  
6 extend to the cast and crew sincere best wishes for a successful  
7 season; and, be it further

8         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
9 prepared for the cast and crew of *Texas* as an expression of high  
10 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.