

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 351**

**WHEREAS**, Proud residents of Wilbarger County are gathering to celebrate Wilbarger County and City of Vernon Day at the State Capitol on March 6, 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, Situated upon the rolling grasslands of North Texas, Wilbarger County was once part of the buffalo hunting grounds of the Comanche; named for early settlers Josiah and Mathias Wilbarger, the county was established in 1858; a branch of the Western Trail passed through the area, and six million longhorns traversed the Red River at Doan's Crossing during the great cattle drives; oil, discovered in the early 20th century, remains important to the region's economy; and

**WHEREAS**, Vernon, the county seat, was originally called Eagle Flat for the abundance of nesting eagles nearby; today, the city is a center for farming, ranching, and the petroleum industry; the town is the birthplace of rock and roll legend Roy Orbison and is also home to Vernon College and the Red River Valley Museum, which chronicles the history, culture, and geography of the region; and

**WHEREAS**, The Waggoner Ranch south of Vernon was established in 1849 and is the largest ranch in Texas under one fence and a five-time winner of the Texas Ranch Roundup; the Santa Rosa Palomino Club is a renowned precision equestrian riding club, and the club's annual Santa Rosa Roundup draws thousands of visitors and top professional rodeo riders; residents and visitors alike also enjoy the picnic every May at Doan's Crossing, one of the oldest annual events in Texas; and

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**WHEREAS**, Celebrating their rich and colorful history as they work together to build a bright future, the citizens of Vernon and Wilbarger County may take justifiable pride in the important role their unique region continues to play in the story of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, hereby recognize March 6, 2013, as Wilbarger County and City of Vernon Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best wishes for a memorable and meaningful visit to Austin.

Duncan

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 6, 2013.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate