

By: Paddie

H.R. No. 374

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Residents of Panola County are gathering in Austin  
2 on February 10, 2015, to celebrate Panola County Day at the State  
3 Capitol; and

4           WHEREAS, Located in northeastern Texas and forming part of  
5 the state's border with Louisiana, Panola County covers more than  
6 800 square miles of forests and rolling plains and is traversed by  
7 the Sabine River; the area experienced a land rush in the 1830s as  
8 settlers arrived from the southern United States; on March 30,  
9 1846, the Texas Legislature officially created Panola County, and  
10 two years later, voters chose Carthage as the county seat; and

11           WHEREAS, It is believed that Judge John Allison, a prominent  
12 civic leader, suggested the name Panola, which may be derived from  
13 the Cherokee word for cotton, *ponolo*; the area's rich soil was well  
14 suited to the crop, and cotton became the county's main  
15 agricultural product; today, Panola County enjoys a diversified  
16 economy, primarily based in oil and gas production, agriculture,  
17 food processing, and timber; the lush forests also make the county a  
18 popular destination for hiking, birding, and camping enthusiasts,  
19 while anglers enjoy the good fishing waters of Martin Creek Lake and  
20 Murvaul Lake; and

21           WHEREAS, With nearly 50 Texas Historical Commission markers,  
22 Panola County has a rich and fascinating history; it was the  
23 birthplace of several notable Texans, including Margie Elizabeth  
24 Neal, the first woman elected to serve in the Texas Senate, and

1 country music stars Tex Ritter and Jim Reeves; a museum dedicated to  
2 Mr. Ritter and a memorial devoted to Mr. Reeves are located in  
3 Carthage, as is the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame, which honors  
4 the legacies of both of these men, along with other country music  
5 legends from the state; and

6 WHEREAS, Carthage, which was named a National Main Street  
7 City in Texas in 2011, is also home to Panola College and the  
8 historic Esquire Theater, which hosts the Country Music Hayride  
9 live music show every Saturday night; other popular events taking  
10 place in the county seat include the Piney Woods Quilt Festival in  
11 April and the East Texas Oil and Gas Blast in October, which  
12 features live music, a car show, and arts and crafts; in addition,  
13 the Footprints in the Sand monument, a poignant religious sculpture  
14 at Pippen Memorial Park, was completed in 2014; and

15 WHEREAS, The citizens of Panola County have long made an  
16 important contribution to the Lone Star State, and it is most  
17 fitting that they be honored on this special day; now, therefore, be  
18 it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
20 Legislature hereby recognize February 10, 2015, as Panola County  
21 Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation  
22 sincere best wishes for a memorable and meaningful visit to Austin.