

By: Frullo

H.R. No. 401

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Many notable citizens of Lubbock are visiting Austin
2 on February 24, 2015, to pay tribute to their city's rich heritage
3 and to celebrate Lubbock Day at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, A thriving region of the state, the Lubbock area is
5 one of the oldest inhabited places in Texas; archeologists have
6 discovered evidence of some 12,000 years of continuous habitation
7 at the Lubbock Lake Landmark site, a national historic and state
8 archeological preserve; and

9 WHEREAS, The City of Lubbock was incorporated on March 16,
10 1909, and railroads stimulated the city's growth as a trade center;
11 residents also wanted the benefits of an institution of higher
12 learning, and when legislation creating Texas Technological
13 College was passed in 1923, the site selection committee, impressed
14 by the enthusiasm and hospitality of local citizens, chose Lubbock
15 for its location; and

16 WHEREAS, Today a community of almost 240,000 people, Lubbock
17 is home to the Texas Tech University System and its flagship campus
18 as well as to two other public universities and a public community
19 college; together, they draw more than 53,000 students to the city
20 each year, making a significant impact on the local economy;
21 approximately 10,000 young Texans graduate in Lubbock each year,
22 and 30 percent of residents over the age of 25 hold at least a
23 bachelor's degree; and

24 WHEREAS, Fostering a dynamic business environment, Lubbock

1 has a regional labor force of more than 207,000, and the cost of
2 doing business continues to rank as one of the lowest in the nation,
3 due to affordable land, wage rates, electric and natural gas
4 utilities, property taxes, and living expenses; and

5 WHEREAS, Lubbock is consistently recognized by national
6 organizations for its business-friendly atmosphere; it was ranked
7 seventh in the 2014 *Forbes* list of "Opportunity Cities" based on low
8 cost of living, cultural offerings, and the strength of the
9 business community; in addition, it has been named a top city for
10 professional women and for young entrepreneurs seeking to start a
11 business; and

12 WHEREAS, Noted for its diverse economy, the city draws its
13 strength from agribusiness, manufacturing, and commerce, as well as
14 from educational facilities and medical infrastructure considered
15 the most extensive to be found between Dallas and Phoenix; with the
16 growth of cotton culture on the High Plains, Lubbock has become one
17 of the world's primary centers for the processing of cottonseed and
18 hybrid grain sorghum seed; and

19 WHEREAS, The economy is deeply rooted in cotton farming, and
20 Lubbock remains home to the world's largest contiguous cotton
21 patch; the area also features several major, award-winning wineries
22 and vineyards, which produce more than 70 percent of all the state's
23 wine grapes; and

24 WHEREAS, This vibrant city also offers a wealth of
25 recreational opportunities and cultural institutions, among them
26 the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, the Lubbock Civic Ballet, the
27 Museum and Planetarium of Texas Tech University, and the Silent

1 Wings Museum; plans are well advanced for a new, state-of-the-art
2 performing arts center to be named after local legend and Rock 'n'
3 Roll Hall of Famer Buddy Holly; and

4 WHEREAS, City leaders meticulously planned infrastructure to
5 create neighborhood parks and ensure the smooth flow of traffic;
6 surrounded by five major highways, Lubbock is nicknamed the "Hub
7 City," and it aims to continue that legacy through the eventual
8 Interstate 27 expansion, a mayoral initiative to relieve congestion
9 on other Texas highways that run through town; and

10 WHEREAS, Those desiring a glimpse of the frontier can find it
11 in the restored structures at the Ranching Heritage Center, a
12 15-acre site tracing the evolution of ranch architecture and the
13 history of the cattle industry; the region's history is also
14 celebrated at the Bayer Museum of Agriculture; and

15 WHEREAS, A host of talented musicians have hailed from the
16 Lubbock area, among them Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison, the Maines
17 family, Virgil Johnson and the Velvets, Waylon Jennings, Tanya
18 Tucker, Joe Ely, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Pat Green, and Butch Hancock;
19 their rich and diverse contributions have earned Lubbock and West
20 Texas state designation as the official "Music Crossroads of
21 Texas"; and

22 WHEREAS, Lubbock's thriving business community is
23 represented by the largest business federation on the Texas South
24 Plains, the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce, which has promoted the
25 prosperity of the Lubbock area for more than a century; achieving
26 great success from its earliest days, it recruited out-of-state
27 farmers to till the fertile soils of the Llano Estacado, secured

1 railroad service, founded the South Plains Fair, and drafted and
2 delivered the application that would result in the establishment of
3 Texas Technological College, which today thrives as the heart of
4 the Texas Tech University System; and

5 WHEREAS, The chamber was also instrumental in establishing
6 Lubbock Preston Smith International Airport and Reese Air Force
7 Base, as well as the revolutionary market-driven Chamber Employer
8 Health Plan, which is now a national model; moreover, its efforts
9 have been key in the development of outstanding transportation
10 infrastructure; committed to revitalizing the community and its
11 downtown, the chamber oversees the efforts of Imagine Lubbock
12 Together, a private-public partnership; it is the nation's first
13 and only chamber to be twice 5-Star Accredited and twice named
14 Chamber of the Year; and

15 WHEREAS, The delegation visiting the Capitol today includes
16 proud members of the chamber's 40th Leadership Lubbock Class, who
17 represent the future business and community leaders of Lubbock; and

18 WHEREAS, Truly keeping faith with the founders of their West
19 Texas community, the citizens of Lubbock are renowned for their
20 friendliness and warmth as well as their hardiness and
21 determination, and they have helped to build a vital urban center
22 that serves not only a large part of West Texas but also eastern New
23 Mexico; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
25 Legislature hereby recognize February 24, 2015, as Lubbock Day at
26 the State Capitol and extend to the members of the visiting
27 delegation and all their fellow citizens sincere appreciation for

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1 the bright luster they add to the Lone Star State.