

By: King of Parker

H.R. No. 516

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Wise County are visiting Austin on
2 February 17, 2015, to celebrate Wise County Day at the State
3 Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Located in the northwestern part of the state, Wise
5 County has a varied terrain, much of which has proven to be fertile
6 farmland; the first known inhabitants of the area in historic times
7 were the Wichita, followed by groups of Caddo, Delaware, and
8 Kichai; Anglo settlers arrived in the 1850s, and on January 23,
9 1856, the county was carved out of Cooke County by legislative act
10 and named in honor of Henry A. Wise, a U.S. congressman from
11 Virginia who had supported the annexation of Texas; at the same time
12 as it created Wise County, the legislature decreed that its county
13 seat be established within five miles of the county's center, and
14 two years later that new community became known as Decatur, after
15 the naval hero Stephen Decatur; and

16 WHEREAS, The eastern fork of the Chisholm Trail passed near
17 Decatur during the latter half of the 19th century, and the town
18 prospered as a shipping point and market for local farmers; today,
19 it is a center for natural gas production, specialty carbon and
20 graphite manufacturing, and health care, as well as marketing and
21 processing for Wise County agribusiness; and

22 WHEREAS, Decatur is also home to some of the best
23 professional rodeo riders in the world; among the champion riders
24 who live and train in the community are bull riders Silvano Alves,

1 Mike Lee, Joao Ricardo Vieira, and Ross Johnson, as well as
2 all-around cowboy Trevor Brazile and wrangler K. C. Jones; the
3 famed Cooper family of rodeo riders live in Decatur as well,
4 including the family patriarch and Texas Rodeo Hall of Famer Roy
5 Cooper; and

6 WHEREAS, Visitors are drawn to Decatur by such historic
7 attractions as the Waggoner Mansion, the Wise County Heritage
8 Museum, the Wise County Veterans Park, and the pink granite Wise
9 County Courthouse, which was completed in 1896; Wise County is home
10 to a variety of recreational opportunities provided by Lake
11 Bridgeport, Eagle Mountain Lake, and the Caddo-Lyndon B. Johnson
12 National Grasslands; in addition, area residents celebrate their
13 heritage with the annual Butterfield Stage Days Festival in May,
14 the Wise County Old Settlers Reunion in July, and the Chisholm Trail
15 Days and Western Heritage Festival in September; and

16 WHEREAS, The citizens of Wise County may take justifiable
17 pride in their corner of Texas and know that it has contributed
18 immensely to the development and vitality of the Lone Star State;
19 now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
21 Legislature hereby recognize February 17, 2015, as Wise County Day
22 at the State Capitol and extend best wishes to the visiting
23 delegation for an informative and enjoyable stay in Austin.