

By: Kacal

H.R. No. 543

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, On February 18, 2015, citizens from the city of West
2 are coming to Austin to celebrate West Day at the State Capitol; and

3 WHEREAS, Established at its present site in 1881, the town
4 was named West nine years later in honor of farmer, postmaster, and
5 businessman Thomas West; the area's rich soil attracted Czech
6 immigrants who farmed the land, opened businesses, shared their
7 European culture, and planted roots that are now indelibly woven
8 into the identity of West; and

9 WHEREAS, The courage and resilience of early pioneers became
10 enduring characteristics of the community; in the wake of the
11 tragic West Fertilizer Company plant explosion that devastated the
12 town in 2013, citizens came together to comfort and support one
13 another; dozens of homes have since been rebuilt, and progress
14 continues on other construction projects, including a \$50 million
15 campus for the middle and high schools; and

16 WHEREAS, Determined to maintain a cherished way of life, the
17 people of West have united to move forward while holding fast to the
18 traditions that make the city unique; West is widely known and
19 officially designated as the Czech Heritage Capital of the State of
20 Texas, and it is informally referred to as the "Czech Point of
21 Central Texas"; it is the place to be on Labor Day weekend for the
22 annual tradition of Westfest, a celebration of Old World foods,
23 music, arts and crafts, and numerous other activities; and

24 WHEREAS, West has long been a premier stop for travelers on

1 the I-35 corridor between Dallas and Austin, due to the bakeries
2 that lure visitors with the promise of kolaches, delicious Czech
3 pastries filled with sweet and savory ingredients; the city is home
4 to the Official Kolache of the Texas Legislature; and

5 WHEREAS, With a population of nearly 3,000 people, West is a
6 small and friendly town with a big can-do attitude, and residents
7 may indeed take pride in the many admirable qualities that have
8 defined their community since its inception; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
10 Legislature hereby recognize February 18, 2015, as West Day at the
11 State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best
12 wishes for an enjoyable and informative visit to Austin.