

By: VanDeaver

H.R. No. 591

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Many proud citizens of Lamar County are visiting the
2 State Capitol on April 8-9, 2015, to celebrate the role this
3 Northeast Texas county has played in the annals of the Lone Star
4 State; and

5 WHEREAS, At the time of the Republic of Texas, present-day
6 Lamar County was located within the boundaries of Red River County;
7 population growth led the Fifth Congress of the republic to
8 establish Lamar County on December 17, 1840, and the current
9 boundaries were drawn 30 years later when a portion of land was
10 carved out for the creation of Delta County; and

11 WHEREAS, Lamar County's namesake was the fourth president of
12 the Republic of Texas, Mirabeau B. Lamar; the small settlement of
13 Lafayette served as the first county seat, but after the Texas
14 Congress passed a law requiring that each county seat be located
15 within five miles of the county's geographic center, Mount Vernon
16 served briefly in that capacity until the town of Paris was founded
17 on 50 acres donated by George W. Wright; Paris has served as the
18 county seat since 1844; and

19 WHEREAS, Numerous early settlers migrated to Lamar County
20 through Tennessee and Kentucky and established small farms; at the
21 turn of the century, the county remained primarily rural, and
22 although the population of Paris had grown to more than 9,000, no
23 other community exceeded 1,000 residents; the industrial economy
24 gradually began to make gains on agriculture in the 20th century as

1 people moved into towns and smaller communities, and Paris played
2 an increasingly important role in the economy of Northeast Texas;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Today, Paris is a regional hub of retail trade,
5 farming, and medical care and home to Fortune 500 companies
6 Campbell Soup Company, Kimberly-Clark Corporation, and Next Era
7 Energy as well as a recent major employer, James Skinner Baking
8 Company; the city is located within an excellent multimodal
9 transportation network, and in addition to numerous food and
10 consumer goods manufacturing plants, it is home to distribution
11 centers that serve the entire nation; and

12 WHEREAS, Quality of life in Paris is enhanced by Paris Junior
13 College and several excellent independent school districts, and by
14 such beautiful recreation areas as Wade Park, Lake Gibbons, Lake
15 Crook, and the Sam Bell Maxey State Historic Structure; every
16 summer, citizens enjoy the Tour de Paris bike race along the 12-mile
17 Trail de Paris, and concerts by the Paris Municipal Band, the oldest
18 such ensemble in the state; landmarks include the Culbertson
19 Fountain in the historic district, named "the prettiest plaza in
20 the State of Texas" by *Texas Monthly* magazine, and the "third
21 largest Eiffel Tower in the Second Largest Paris," a 65-foot-tall
22 monument constructed by local workers and capped, appropriately,
23 with a cowboy hat; and

24 WHEREAS, The industrious residents of this vibrant Texas
25 county are preserving the best of their past while working to meet
26 the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, and it is indeed
27 appropriate to honor them at this time; now, therefore, be it

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1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
2 Legislature hereby recognize April 8-9, 2015, as Lamar County Days
3 at the State Capitol and extend to the delegation sincere best
4 wishes for an enjoyable and informative visit.