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H.R. No. 754

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents from Collin County are gathering at the
2 State Capitol on March 2 and 3, 2015, to celebrate Collin County
3 Days, and this event provides an opportunity to pay tribute to its
4 many prosperous communities; and

5 WHEREAS, Collin County is one of the largest and
6 fastest-growing counties in the state; more than 90 percent of its
7 workforce over the age of 25 holds a high school diploma and about
8 half has earned at least a bachelor's degree; such highly skilled
9 workers also make the county a leader in job growth; and

10 WHEREAS, Plano is the largest city in the county and home to
11 such major companies as Frito-Lay, J. C. Penney Company, Inc.,
12 Ericsson, H. P. Enterprise Services, and Dr Pepper Snapple Group,
13 Inc.; Toyota has established its North American headquarters in
14 Plano, as has Hilti Corporation; cited as one of the top 10 best
15 cities in which to find a job, Plano has also been named one of the
16 Best Run Cities in America by 24/7 Wall St.; this thriving
17 municipality boasts nationally recognized schools, award-winning
18 parks, a lively historic downtown district, and multicultural
19 neighborhoods that appeal equally to families, young singles, and
20 retirees; its excellent restaurants, vibrant shopping districts,
21 exciting entertainment venues, and active local arts scene all
22 contribute to the city's high quality of life; and

23 WHEREAS, Home of the Collin County Regional Airport, McKinney
24 hosts such major employers as Raytheon Company, Encore Wire

1 Corporation, Emerson Process Management, and Torchmark
2 Corporation; its historic downtown encompasses more than 130
3 boutiques, and it earned the ranking of #1 Best Place to Live 2014
4 by *Money* magazine; and

5 WHEREAS, Allen was named among the 10 safest cities in the
6 nation in its class for the third time by CQ Press, and it has also
7 placed 13th on *Money* magazine's list of the Best Places to Live; the
8 city received the Keep Texas Beautiful Governor's Community Award
9 for its environmental efforts, and its residents are proud of the
10 2014 6A Division 1 high school football champions, the Allen
11 Eagles; and

12 WHEREAS, Defining "Progress in Motion," Frisco is the
13 second-fastest growing city in the country and the fastest-growing
14 community over the past decade, according to the United States
15 census bureau; it has maintained its quality of life amid rapid
16 development, and the *Dallas Morning News* named Frisco among its top
17 10 suburbs for schools, safety, families with children, young
18 adults, empty nesters, and "Best Overall" neighborhoods; known for
19 top-notch public safety services, the city received the highest
20 rating for fire protection, and it enjoys one of the lowest crime
21 rates, as well as low taxes; this once-small town is home to Collin
22 College, world-class venues, and four professional sports teams,
23 with another on the way; active residents have access to 49 parks,
24 86 miles of trails, and an athletic center featuring an outdoor
25 water park; health care facilities include three hospitals, and the
26 favorable business climate supports more than nine million square
27 feet of retail and restaurants; among the cultural amenities are

1 two museums and hundreds of public and private art installations
2 displayed throughout Frisco's 72-square-mile area; and

3 WHEREAS, The City of Wylie, Wylie Independent School
4 District, Wylie Chamber of Commerce, and Wylie Economic Development
5 Corporation work in concert to build a strong community that
6 strives to honor the past, embrace the present, and plan for the
7 future, while valuing unity, relationships, and trust, as evidenced
8 by a recent report naming Wylie the second-best small city in the
9 country in which to raise a family; Wylie fosters a spirit of
10 cooperation, and with a thriving business environment and
11 outstanding schools, it is a place people treasure and proudly call
12 home; and

13 WHEREAS, Richardson is the home of The University of Texas at
14 Dallas and the Telecom Corridor; it has been recognized by the Texas
15 Legislature as the official International Business Capital of North
16 Texas and is the second largest employment center in the DFW
17 Metroplex; more than 10,000 people will soon be employed at the
18 CityLine development by KDC, which includes State Farm's new
19 regional campus and Raytheon's Intelligence Information and
20 Services unit; welcoming numerous visitors, the city hosts the
21 Wildflower! Arts and Music Festival, the largest such event in
22 North Texas, and the Cottonwood Art Festival, one of the top outdoor
23 arts festivals in the nation; and

24 WHEREAS, The city of Murphy, an affluent residential
25 community in southeastern Collin County, has maintained its
26 designation as a top 10 Best Suburb by *D Magazine* since the
27 inception of the ratings; Murphy boasts over 219 acres of parkland,

1 and it has rich community programs along with a culturally diverse,
2 highly educated population of over 20,000; exciting new businesses
3 have joined an engaging business community, and residents take
4 pride in the city's ranking as the third-safest city in North Texas
5 and the fifth safest in the state; and

6 WHEREAS, Recognized by *D Magazine* as a top 10 suburb, Prosper
7 issued more than 550 single-family housing permits in 2014, and it
8 has a billion-dollar mixed-use development in the works; it is home
9 to several top housing developers, including Blue Star Development,
10 LandPlan, and Terra Verde Group; Prosper's citizens have passed a
11 \$710 million bond package for their public schools, which have
12 maintained academic excellence while experiencing a growth in
13 enrollment of 50 percent over the last three years; the city's
14 outstanding police department offers such community outreach and
15 crime prevention programs as Citizens on Patrol, the Citizens
16 Police Academy, and Prosper Community Watch, among others; and

17 WHEREAS, One of two platinum-level Scenic Cities in Texas,
18 Fairview has been recognized as a Tree City USA and earned a 2012
19 Growing Green Cities Award; the city is home to the first street in
20 Texas illuminated by LED lighting and is a three-time recipient of
21 the Texas Municipal League Municipal Excellence Award; the city's
22 Veterans' Park has been recognized with a Patriotic Achievement
23 Award from the Military Order of the World Wars; and

24 WHEREAS, The crossroads of the developing transportation
25 corridor in northern Collin County, Celina is growing rapidly while
26 retaining its respect for the traditional values of family and
27 heritage; its school district is rich in academic and athletic

1 achievement, with the Celina Bobcats earning pride of place as the
2 winners of eight state football championships; and

3 WHEREAS, Since its incorporation in 1959, Lucas has embraced
4 its serene rural lifestyle, which creates a high quality of life for
5 its citizens; it is a country oasis of spacious homes, small
6 ranches, and farms, with 25 miles of trails for horses and
7 pedestrians along Lake Lavon; the focus on wildlife habitat
8 preservation has made it the perfect home for the Blackland Prairie
9 Raptor Center; moreover, quality schools and a vibrant residential
10 market keep Lucas family friendly; the city's emphasis on financial
11 stability and transparency has earned it the Certificate in
12 Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the
13 Government Finance Officers Association, along with the Texas
14 Comptroller's Leadership Circle Platinum Award, and an AA+ bond
15 rating; enhancing the safety of the public, the City of Lucas Fire
16 Department provides emergency medical services; the department
17 continues to benefit from volunteerism, and the community is justly
18 known as a small city with a big heart; and

19 WHEREAS, The citizens of Parker are proud to be living in *D*
20 *Magazine's* number two suburb in the DFW Metroplex, and they also
21 enjoy a low municipal tax rate, as well as a AAA bond rating; the
22 residents number about 4,000, and they cherish their uniquely
23 "country" lifestyle; characterized by its large lots and
24 comfortable atmosphere, Parker is known to millions of television
25 viewers as the home of the legendary Southfork Ranch from *Dallas*;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, One of the fastest-growing cities in the Dallas/Fort

1 Worth Metroplex, the city of Anna is a family-friendly community
2 with hometown appeal; its residents enjoy an unhurried and friendly
3 atmosphere, with safe neighborhoods, excellent schools, and access
4 to many urban amenities; local businesses benefit from affordable
5 real estate, a low cost of doing business, a well-educated
6 workforce, an active chamber of commerce, and dedicated consumers;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Farmersville, located 15 miles east of McKinney,
9 took its name from the primary occupation of its original
10 residents; established in 1849 as a settlement on the
11 Jefferson-McKinney Road and near the Republic of Texas National
12 Road, the town was incorporated in 1873; agriculture kept pace as it
13 became a trade center, and in the 1930s, Farmersville shipped over
14 1,000 carloads of onions annually, earning the nickname "Onion
15 Capital of North Texas"; the city may be best known for native son
16 Audie Murphy, who listed Farmersville as his hometown when he
17 enlisted in the army during WWII and returned home to a hero's
18 welcome in 1945; he had earned every army citation for valor, was a
19 recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, and was posthumously
20 awarded the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor; Farmersville has a
21 nationally recognized Main Street Program, with many historic
22 downtown buildings, eateries, and shopping attractions; near the
23 restored Onion Shed is the trailhead for the 130-mile Northeast
24 Texas Trail, a beautiful site for walking, hiking, and bicycling;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, Other communities add much to Collin County's
27 allure; the growing community of Blue Ridge is committed to

1 revitalizing its downtown, while the people of Josephine are proud
2 of their active volunteer fire department, which not only protects
3 the community but hosts such popular annual events as the Easter egg
4 hunt and the Christmas parade; and

5 WHEREAS, Also contributing to the development of Collin
6 County are the citizens of Copeville, Lavon, Lowry Crossing,
7 Melissa, Nevada, New Hope, Princeton, Royse City, Sachse, St. Paul,
8 Westminster, and Weston, along with parts of Dallas and Garland,
9 and those communities play an important part in the county's
10 flourishing, diversified economy and its quality of life; and

11 WHEREAS, The citizens of this notable North Texas county are
12 working to preserve the best of their past even as they look forward
13 to a bright and promising future, and they are sure to figure
14 prominently in the growth and prosperity of the Lone Star State in
15 the years ahead; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
17 Legislature hereby recognize March 2 and 3, 2015, as Collin County
18 Days at the State Capitol and extend sincere best wishes to the
19 visiting delegation for an informative and enjoyable visit to
20 Austin.