

By: Price

H.R. No. 2911

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, During the summer of 2015, the outdoor musical drama
2 *Texas* in Palo Duro Canyon will celebrate its 50th anniversary and
3 once again inspire and entertain audiences from across the state
4 and the nation; and

5 WHEREAS, This annual stage spectacular was the brainchild of
6 Panhandle resident Margaret Pease Harper, a professor at West Texas
7 State College in Canyon; she conceived of the idea of building an
8 open-air amphitheater in majestic Palo Duro Canyon, and she
9 persuaded North Carolina playwright Paul Green to write a
10 large-scale pageant about the lives of Panhandle pioneers; and

11 WHEREAS, Pioneer Amphitheater was opened in 1962, and in the
12 summer of 1966, the first production of *Texas* was performed there;
13 the play's music, choreography, and direction were provided by
14 faculty members of West Texas State, and many of the show's original
15 cast members were students from the school; and

16 WHEREAS, Today, *Texas* is produced by the Texas Panhandle
17 Heritage Foundation, which works to preserve the history of the
18 Panhandle through theater; performed every evening Tuesday through
19 Sunday from June until mid-August, the show tells the story of
20 Calvin Armstrong, a young homesteader, and other characters include
21 a wealthy rancher, a comic gold prospector, cowboys, pioneer women,
22 and Quanah Parker, the last chief of the Comanche; and

23 WHEREAS, From its thrilling opening, as a rider on horseback
24 carries the Texas flag at top speed along the rim of the canyon, to

1 its stirring conclusion under the Western stars, the outdoor
2 musical *Texas* has delighted theatergoers for half a century, and it
3 is truly one of the Lone Star State's cultural treasures; now,
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
6 Legislature hereby commemorate the 50th anniversary and the 2015
7 production of *Texas* and extend to the cast and crew sincere best
8 wishes for a successful season; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
10 prepared for the cast and crew of *Texas* as an expression of high
11 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.