

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 187**

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, Decatur is also home to some of the best professional rodeo riders in the world; among the champion riders who live and train in the community are bull riders Silvano Alves, Mike Lee, Joao Ricardo Vieira, and Ross Johnson, as well as all-around cowboy Trevor Brazile and wrangler K. C. Jones; the

famed Cooper family of rodeo riders live in Decatur as well, including the family patriarch and Texas Rodeo Hall of Famer Roy Cooper; and

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

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

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

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the  
above Resolution was adopted by  
the Senate on February 17, 2015.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate