

By: Lang

H.R. No. 201

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Palo Pinto County are gathering  
2 in Austin on January 30, 2017, to celebrate the first Palo Pinto  
3 County Day at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Named for one of its principal streams and situated  
5 in the Western Cross Timbers Ecoregion, Palo Pinto County covers  
6 948 square miles of rugged, hilly land drained by the Brazos River;  
7 the Texas Legislature formed the county in 1856, and Golconda, the  
8 county seat, was renamed Palo Pinto two years later; and

9 WHEREAS, Early settlers of Palo Pinto County included Charles  
10 Goodnight and Oliver Loving, of the famed Goodnight-Loving Trail,  
11 who established cattle ranches in the area; in the late 1800s, the  
12 county's economy centered on livestock, and a meeting of area  
13 ranchers in 1876 led to the creation of what is now known as the  
14 Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association; over the years,  
15 oil and natural gas production helped to diversify the local  
16 economy, and the county has also developed a robust tourist  
17 industry with such attractions as Lake Palo Pinto, Possum Kingdom  
18 Lake, and Lake Mineral Wells State Park; and

19 WHEREAS, The community of Palo Pinto is home to the Old Jail,  
20 built in 1880, which now serves as a museum complex and hosts a  
21 variety of events, including the annual Frontier Days and Old  
22 Settlers Reunion; and

23 WHEREAS, The largest city in Palo Pinto County is Mineral  
24 Wells, which was first settled in 1877 by James and Amanda Lynch;

1 after digging a well, the couple found that the unusual-tasting  
2 water seemed beneficial to their health, and in 1885, the Crazy Well  
3 was dug and the town gained popularity as a center for wellness and  
4 recreation; today, the city remains a notable attraction for  
5 retirees and tourists alike, and citizens pay tribute to their  
6 heritage with the annual Crazy Water Festival; Mineral Wells is  
7 also the site of the Baker Hotel, which was frequented in its heyday  
8 by notable Hollywood stars, including Ronald Reagan, Clark Gable,  
9 Carole Lombard, Judy Garland, Will Rogers, and the Three Stooges;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The people of Palo Pinto County take great pride in  
12 their rich history as they work together to build an even brighter  
13 future, and it is indeed a privilege to honor them and their unique  
14 region of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
16 Legislature hereby recognize January 30, 2017, as Palo Pinto County  
17 Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation  
18 sincere best wishes for an informative and enjoyable stay in  
19 Austin.