

By: Burrows

H.R. No. 311

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Many notable citizens of Lubbock are visiting Austin
2 on February 22, 2017, to pay tribute to their city's rich heritage
3 and to celebrate Lubbock Day at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, A thriving region of the state, the Lubbock area is
5 one of the oldest inhabited places in Texas; archaeologists have
6 discovered evidence of some 12,000 years of continuous habitation
7 at the Lubbock Lake Landmark site, a national historic and state
8 archaeological preserve; and

9 WHEREAS, The City of Lubbock was incorporated on March 16,
10 1909; the railroads stimulated the city's growth as a trade center,
11 but residents also wanted the benefits of an institution of higher
12 learning; when legislation creating Texas Technological College
13 was finally passed in 1923, the site selection committee, impressed
14 by the enthusiasm and hospitality of local citizens, chose Lubbock
15 for its location; and

16 WHEREAS, Today a city of close to 250,000 people, Lubbock is
17 home to the Texas Tech University System and its flagship
18 institution, Texas Tech University, a school well deserving of its
19 recently acquired Tier One status; and

20 WHEREAS, The Texas Tech Health Sciences Center attracts
21 nearly 5,000 students from around the world, and it is currently
22 ranked as the number one medical school in the nation by the SR
23 Education Group, besting the programs at other notable institutions
24 such as Harvard, Stanford, and Yale; and

1 WHEREAS, Three universities, including Texas Tech, and one
2 public community college annually draw more than 53,000 students to
3 the area and refresh the local economy with around 10,000 new
4 graduates each year, creating a community where 30 percent of
5 residents over the age of 25 hold a college degree or higher; and

6 WHEREAS, Lubbock's regional labor force numbers more than
7 207,000, and the cost of doing business continues to rank as one of
8 the lowest in the nation, due to one of the lowest costs for
9 electric and natural gas utilities, as well as affordable land,
10 wage rates, cost of living, and property taxes; and

11 WHEREAS, Lubbock is consistently recognized by national
12 organizations for its business-friendly atmosphere, including
13 being named the number one city for professional women, ranked in
14 the top 20 for young entrepreneurs to start a business, and named
15 seventh in the 2014 *Forbes* list of "Opportunity Cities" based on low
16 cost of living, cultural offerings, and the strength of the
17 business community; and

18 WHEREAS, Lubbock enjoys a diverse economy that draws its
19 strength from agribusiness, manufacturing, and commerce, as well as
20 from educational and medical facilities, boasting the largest
21 medical infrastructure to be found between Dallas and Phoenix; with
22 the growth of cotton culture on the High Plains, Lubbock has become
23 one of the world's primary centers for the processing of cottonseed
24 and hybrid grain sorghum seed; and

25 WHEREAS, The Lubbock economy is deeply rooted in cotton
26 farming, and the city remains home to the world's largest
27 contiguous cotton patch; the area also features several major,

1 award-winning wineries and vineyards, which produce more than 70
2 percent of all the state's wine grapes; and

3 WHEREAS, Lubbock also offers a wealth of cultural
4 institutions and recreational opportunities, among them the
5 Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, the Lubbock Civic Ballet, the Museum
6 and Planetarium and other offerings at Texas Tech University, and
7 the Silent Wings Museum; moreover, plans are well under way for a
8 new, state-of-the-art performing arts center to be named after
9 local legend and Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Famer Buddy Holly; and

10 WHEREAS, City leaders meticulously planned infrastructure to
11 create a low-traffic community with more neighborhood parks per
12 capita than any other city in Texas; Lubbock is nicknamed the "Hub
13 City" because it is surrounded by five major highways, and it aims
14 to continue that legacy through the eventual expansion of
15 Interstate 27 that will assist in relieving congestion on other
16 major Texas highways; and

17 WHEREAS, Those wanting a glimpse of the frontier can find it
18 in the restored structures at the Ranching Heritage Center, a
19 15-acre site tracing the evolution of ranch architecture and the
20 history of the cattle industry; the region's history is also
21 celebrated at the Bayer Museum of Agriculture; and

22 WHEREAS, The talented musicians who have come from the
23 Lubbock area include Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison, the Maines family,
24 Virgil Johnson and the Velvets, Waylon Jennings, Tanya Tucker, Joe
25 Ely, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Pat Green, and Butch Hancock; their rich
26 and diverse contributions have earned Lubbock and West Texas
27 recognition as the official "Music Crossroads of Texas"; and

1 WHEREAS, Lubbock's thriving business community is
2 represented by the largest business federation on the Texas South
3 Plains, the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce, which grows and guards the
4 prosperity of the Lubbock area; early major achievements by the
5 chamber during more than a century of service include recruiting
6 out-of-state farmers to populate the area and make productive the
7 fertile soils of the Llano Estacado, securing railroad service,
8 founding the South Plains Fair, and drafting and delivering the
9 application to the Texas Capitol that would result in establishing
10 Texas Technological College, which today thrives as the heart of
11 the Texas Tech University System; and

12 WHEREAS, The Lubbock Chamber of Commerce was also
13 instrumental in establishing Lubbock Preston Smith International
14 Airport, Reese Air Force Base, outstanding transportation
15 infrastructure, and a revolutionary market-driven Chamber Employer
16 Health Plan that is a model nationwide; committed to revitalizing
17 the community and creating a culturally sound, vibrant downtown,
18 the chamber oversees the efforts of Imagine Lubbock Together, a
19 private-public partnership; moreover, it is the nation's first and
20 only chamber to be twice 5-Star Accredited and twice named Chamber
21 of the Year; and

22 WHEREAS, Among the delegation visiting the Capitol today are
23 proud members of the chamber's 42nd Leadership Lubbock Class, who
24 represent the future business and community leaders of Lubbock; and

25 WHEREAS, The citizens of Lubbock have truly kept faith with
26 the founders of their West Texas community; renowned for their
27 friendliness and warmth as well as their hardiness and

1 determination, they have helped to build a vital urban center that
2 serves not only a large part of West Texas but also eastern New
3 Mexico; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
5 Legislature hereby recognize February 22, 2017, as Lubbock Day at
6 the State Capitol and extend to the members of the visiting
7 delegation and all their fellow citizens sincere appreciation for
8 the bright luster they add to the Lone Star State.