

By: Paddie

H.R. No. 325

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Panola County are gathering in Austin
2 on February 7, 2017, to celebrate Panola County Day at the State
3 Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Located in northeastern Texas and forming part of
5 the state's border with Louisiana, Panola County covers more than
6 800 square miles of forests and rolling plains and is traversed by
7 the Sabine River; the area experienced a land rush in the 1830s as
8 settlers arrived from the southern United States; on March 30,
9 1846, the Texas Legislature officially created Panola County, and
10 two years later, voters chose Carthage as the county seat; and

11 WHEREAS, It is believed that Judge John Allison, a prominent
12 civic leader, suggested the name Panola, which may be derived from
13 the Cherokee word for cotton, *ponolo*; the area's rich soil was well
14 suited to the crop, and cotton became the county's main
15 agricultural product; today, Panola County enjoys a diversified
16 economy, primarily based in oil and gas production, agriculture,
17 food processing, and timber; the lush forests also make the county a
18 popular destination for hiking, birding, and camping enthusiasts,
19 while anglers enjoy the good fishing waters of Martin Creek Lake and
20 Murvaul Lake; and

21 WHEREAS, With nearly 50 Texas Historical Commission markers,
22 Panola County has a rich and fascinating history; it was the
23 birthplace of several notable Texans, including Margie Elizabeth
24 Neal, the first woman elected to serve in the Texas Senate, and

1 country music stars Tex Ritter and Jim Reeves; a museum dedicated to
2 Mr. Ritter and a memorial devoted to Mr. Reeves are located in
3 Carthage, as is the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame, which honors
4 the legacies of both of these men, along with other country music
5 legends from the state; and

6 WHEREAS, Carthage, which was named a National Main Street
7 City in Texas in 2011, is also home to Panola College and the
8 historic Esquire Theater, which hosts the Country Music Hayride
9 live music show every Saturday night; other popular events taking
10 place in the county seat include the Piney Woods Quilt Festival in
11 April and the East Texas Oil and Gas Blast in October, which
12 features music, a car show, and arts and crafts; in addition, the
13 Footprints in the Sand monument, a poignant religious sculpture at
14 Pippen Memorial Park, was completed in 2014; and

15 WHEREAS, The citizens of Panola County take great pride in
16 their rich history as they work together to build an even brighter
17 future, and it is indeed fitting to honor them and their unique
18 contributions to the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
20 Legislature hereby recognize February 7, 2017, as Panola County Day
21 at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere
22 best wishes for a memorable and meaningful visit to Austin.