

By: Craddick

H.R. No. 339

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Midland and Odessa are gathering  
2 in Austin on February 7, 2017, to celebrate Midland-Odessa Day at  
3 the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Set only 20 miles apart in the ranching and oil  
5 country of West Texas, these vibrant Texas cities got their start as  
6 stops on the Texas and Pacific Railway in the 1880s; by 1890,  
7 Midland was one of the most important centers for shipping cattle in  
8 Texas; and

9 WHEREAS, Odessa began its rapid growth with the discovery of  
10 oil in the Permian Basin in the 1920s, and by the 1940s, it had grown  
11 from 750 residents to 10,000; by 1929, Midland was home to 36 oil  
12 companies, and the demand for oil during World War II helped Odessa  
13 develop as a major processor and distributor of petroleum products,  
14 home to the largest inland petrochemical complex in the world; and

15 WHEREAS, Today, Midland continues to be the financial and  
16 administrative capital of the Permian Basin, while Odessa remains  
17 the center for the region's oil processing and distribution;  
18 looking to the future, the Midland Development Corporation and the  
19 Odessa Development Corporation are working to strengthen and  
20 diversify the area's economy; and

21 WHEREAS, Odessa and Midland boast many fine historical and  
22 cultural attractions; in Odessa, the Presidential Archives &  
23 Leadership Library is the only museum in the nation dedicated to the  
24 history of the office of the presidency; the families of both Bush

1 presidents have called Midland and Odessa home, and the archive  
2 features a restored house where the Bush family once resided;  
3 additionally, the Ellen Noël Art Museum, one of only two  
4 Smithsonian affiliates in Texas, features world-class exhibits  
5 year-round, and the Parker House Ranching Museum evokes the way of  
6 life of a prominent Texas ranching family; and

7       WHEREAS, Visitors and residents alike enjoy the Stonehenge  
8 replica on the campus of The University of Texas of the Permian  
9 Basin, as well as live productions at the replica of Shakespeare's  
10 Globe Theatre on the campus of Odessa College; the White-Pool house  
11 is the first residential home in Odessa and proudly displays items  
12 from both the White and Pool families; also located in Odessa and  
13 enjoyed by more than 10,000 visitors every year is the nation's  
14 second-largest meteor crater and adjoining museum; and

15       WHEREAS, Odessa's newest attraction is the Chris Kyle  
16 Memorial Plaza, which honors the former Navy SEAL who was born in  
17 Odessa, and also pays tribute to past, current, and future veterans  
18 who have served our country so unselfishly; and

19       WHEREAS, Situated between Midland and Odessa is the Wagner  
20 Noël Performing Arts Center, a state-of-the-art facility boasting a  
21 total of 2,000 seats between its theater and recital hall, which  
22 brings in myriad shows to impress a variety of audiences; and

23       WHEREAS, Midland's Museum of the Southwest offers displays of  
24 the art and archaeology of the American Southwest, as well as the  
25 winning Kentucky Derby history of one of Midland's prominent  
26 families; the newly remodeled interactive exhibits of the Permian  
27 Basin Petroleum Museum present the geology and history of oil while

1 inspiring entrepreneurs of the future; and

2           WHEREAS, The Midland Army Air Field Museum preserves the  
3 history of the largest bombardier training school in World War II  
4 and also highlights the contributions that West Texans made to the  
5 war effort; the Haley Memorial Library & History Center houses the  
6 first bell to hang in the Alamo, as well as vast resources of oral  
7 and written history about the cowboy; furthermore, the Midland  
8 Festival Ballet, the Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale, and the  
9 award-winning Midland Community Theatre offer live performances  
10 that inspire and entertain; and

11           WHEREAS, For more than a century, the dynamic cities of  
12 Midland and Odessa have been at the economic and cultural hub of  
13 West Texas, and their citizens continue to celebrate their rich  
14 history as they work hard to build a prosperous future; now,  
15 therefore, be it

16           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
17 Legislature hereby recognize February 7, 2017, as Midland-Odessa  
18 Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best  
19 wishes for a meaningful and enjoyable stay in Austin.