

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 421

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud citizens of Van Zandt County are gathering at
2 the State Capitol on March 7, 2017, to commemorate Van Zandt County
3 Day and to celebrate the significant role their home has played in
4 the story of the Lone Star State; and

5 WHEREAS, Created by an Act of the Texas Legislature on March
6 20, 1848, this county in the northeast region of Texas was named for
7 Isaac Van Zandt, a lawyer who served as a legislator and diplomat
8 for the Republic of Texas; and

9 WHEREAS, Canton, the county seat, was laid out in 1850 and
10 incorporated in 1919; designated a Main Street City in 2001, it is
11 home to the Van Zandt County Fair and Rodeo, as well as one of the
12 nation's best-known flea markets, First Monday Trade Days; the city
13 is also the location of the Library of Genealogy and Local History,
14 which preserves the county's heritage and draws researchers from
15 far and near; and

16 WHEREAS, The county's other notable communities include Ben
17 Wheeler, which was named in 1878 for Benjamin F. Wheeler, an early
18 mail carrier in Van Zandt County; and

19 WHEREAS, Edgewood, which was first settled in the 1840s,
20 hosts the Edgewood Heritage Festival every November at the Heritage
21 Park Museum; this popular attraction is dedicated to the
22 preservation of rural culture and architecture; and

23 WHEREAS, Named after a figure from the Bible, Edom is one of
24 the oldest towns in the county, and it is home to 11 state

1 historical markers, many of them researched by members of the Edom
2 Historical Society; the residents of this small community also give
3 hearty support to an active civic theater and popular arts fairs;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, A 1901 petition by local fruit growers prompted the
6 renaming of Bolan Switch to Fruitvale; the town had boasted a fruit
7 nursery as early as the 1870s and also had a lumber shipping
8 business by the second decade of the 20th century, but Fruitvale was
9 not incorporated until the 1960s; and

10 WHEREAS, Originally called Jordan's Saline, Grand Saline was
11 the first county seat, and it takes its name from an immense dome of
12 pure salt that lies beneath the city; more than a mile and a half
13 wide and 16,000 feet thick, the deposit is now mined by the Morton
14 Salt company; named a Main Street City in 2004, the community
15 celebrates its heritage with the Salt Palace, a house built out of
16 salt blocks, and an annual Salt Festival; the town is also the
17 birthplace of pioneer aviator Wiley Post, whose life is
18 commemorated with a historical marker; and

19 WHEREAS, Martin's Mill was established in the valley of Cream
20 Level Creek before the Civil War; it got its name from Daniel
21 G. Martin, who opened a gin and gristmill there in 1875; and

22 WHEREAS, The community of Van was established in 1894, and it
23 remained a quiet farming community until 1929, when the discovery
24 of oil in the area transformed the village into a boomtown; the Van
25 Area Oil and Historical Museum and the annual Oil Pageant & Festival
26 recapture the excitement of that time; and

27 WHEREAS, Wills Point was named for William Wills, who settled

1 in the area in the 1840s and whose homestead became a way station
2 for travelers; his original cabin still stands in Bruce Park, and
3 the old Texas and Pacific Railroad depot features exhibits of local
4 history; as the official Bluebird Capital of Texas, Wills Point
5 hosts the annual Bluebird Festival every April; and

6 WHEREAS, Major events in the county include the Western Swing
7 Valentine Party in Canton, the Edom Festival of the Arts, and the
8 Relay for Life of Van Zandt County; for the outdoor enthusiast, the
9 Neches and Sabine Rivers, Purtis Creek State Park, and Lake
10 Tawakoni State Park offer fine opportunities for fishing, boating,
11 swimming, camping, and hiking; home to more than 53,000 people, the
12 county prospers thanks to agriculture, oil and gas, and tourism;
13 the region is a major producer of hay, sweet potatoes, beef cattle,
14 and nursery crops; and

15 WHEREAS, The people of Van Zandt 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 story of the Lone Star State; now, therefore,
19 be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
21 Legislature hereby recognize March 7, 2017, as Van Zandt County Day
22 at the State Capitol and extend best wishes to the visiting
23 residents of the county for an informative and enjoyable stay in
24 Austin.