

By: Price

H.R. No. 526

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, On February 21, 2017, proud residents of the Texas  
2 Panhandle are visiting Austin for Panhandle Day at the State  
3 Capitol, a celebration of the rich heritage of this important  
4 region of the Lone Star State; and

5           WHEREAS, The striking landscape of the Panhandle ranges from  
6 the vast grasslands and open sky of the Llano Estacado to the  
7 breathtaking vistas of Palo Duro Canyon and the Caprock Escarpment  
8 to the gently undulating rolling plains of the southeast; the  
9 ancient Paleo-Indians once lived here, as did members of later  
10 Native American cultures, and in 1541, when the explorer Francisco  
11 Vázquez de Coronado passed through the area, he found a rich  
12 rangeland, thick with buffalo; and

13           WHEREAS, The Panhandle's distinctive shape results from  
14 boundaries that were established by the Compromise of 1850, and in  
15 the decades after the Civil War, pioneering cattlemen such as  
16 Charles Goodnight, James Adair, and Thomas Sherman Bugbee  
17 established enormous ranching empires; the arrival of the railroad  
18 in the late 1880s hastened the development of wheat and cotton  
19 farming, and the discovery of oil and natural gas in the 1920s  
20 further boosted and diversified the region's economy; and

21           WHEREAS, Today, the Panhandle continues to prosper from  
22 farming and from the oil, gas, and wind industries, and  
23 cattle-raising remains a multibillion-dollar business, with more  
24 feedlots in the region than anywhere else in the nation; Amarillo,

1 the Panhandle's largest city, is home to such large employers as  
2 Xcel Energy, Tyson Foods, Bell Helicopter, Pantex, and several  
3 health care systems, as well as to the Texas Cattle Feeders  
4 Association; Pampa, the second-largest city, is a thriving center  
5 for petroleum and livestock, and Dalhart boasts the annual XIT  
6 Rodeo and Reunion and the Hilmar Cheese Company; Sunray is home to a  
7 Valero refinery, while Dumas and Hereford are known for cattle  
8 feeding and beef processing enterprises; Panhandle serves as county  
9 seat of Carson County and is home to Panhandle Elementary School, a  
10 2016 National Blue Ribbon School, and Borger is the site of a  
11 Phillips 66 refinery and an Agrium nitrogen plant; and

12         WHEREAS, The educational needs of the Panhandle's residents  
13 are served by the nationally recognized Texas Tech University  
14 Health Sciences Center and West Texas A&M University, as well as  
15 such first-rate junior college institutions of higher learning as  
16 Amarillo College, Frank Phillips College, and Clarendon College;  
17 and

18         WHEREAS, The Panhandle features a variety of notable cultural  
19 and recreational attractions; Amarillo supports the Lone Star  
20 Ballet and the Amarillo Symphony, and the city's many museums  
21 include the American Quarter Horse Heritage Center and Museum, the  
22 Don Harrington Discovery Center, the Texas Air and Space Museum,  
23 the Amarillo Railroad Museum, the Amarillo Museum of Art, and the  
24 Kwahadi Museum of the American Indian; the Panhandle-Plains  
25 Historical Museum in Canyon houses more than two million artifacts  
26 that evoke the heritage of the region, while Palo Duro Canyon State  
27 Park hosts the outdoor musical drama *Texas*, which portrays the

1 struggles and triumphs of area settlers in the 19th century; Dumas  
2 draws visitors from across the region for its Dogie Days every June,  
3 and Stratford, the county seat of Sherman County, hosts its popular  
4 Jamboree each July; and

5 WHEREAS, The people of the Texas Panhandle are blessed to  
6 live in a region of abundant natural resources and windswept  
7 beauty, and they may indeed take great pride in the important  
8 contributions they have made and continue to make to the history,  
9 culture, and prosperity of Texas; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
11 Legislature hereby recognize February 21, 2017, as Panhandle Day at  
12 the State Capitol and extend to those attending the celebration  
13 sincere best wishes for a memorable and meaningful event.