

By: Price

H.R. No. 812

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Amarillo National Bank is celebrating its 125th
2 anniversary on March 18, 2017, providing a fitting opportunity to
3 recognize this venerable family-owned financial institution; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1892, just five years after Amarillo was founded,
5 a small bank opened on Polk Street; one of the institution's first
6 vice presidents was B. T. Ware, a cattleman and early business
7 leader in the town; he owned the bank from 1900 to 1906, when he sold
8 his shares and purchased another financial institution in nearby
9 Channing; three years later, he repurchased the Amarillo bank and
10 merged it with the one in Channing, and for the next 28 years, he
11 served as president of Amarillo National Bank; the business played
12 an instrumental role in the oil and gas industry in the Panhandle,
13 helped local families make it through the Great Depression, and
14 supported area farmers during the Dust Bowl; and

15 WHEREAS, Following Mr. Ware's death in 1937, his son Charles
16 became ANB's president, assisted by his brothers, Richard and
17 Arthur; together they led the institution through World War II and
18 the growth spurred by the opening of the Amarillo Air Force Base; in
19 1950, ANB opened the first drive-up bank in the State of Texas, and
20 two decades later, Tol Ware, B. T.'s grandson, became ANB's
21 president, overseeing the construction of a 16-story headquarters
22 in downtown Amarillo and establishing the first automatic teller
23 machine in the state in 1978; and

24 WHEREAS, Tol Ware's son, Richard, took over in 1982, and,

1 alongside his brother Bill, shepherded the bank through the
2 financial crises of the 1980s, the introduction of online banking
3 in the 1990s, and the recession of 2008; today, Richard Ware serves
4 as chair and president, and his sons, William and Pat, serve as
5 executive vice presidents; Bill Ware's son, W. Tol Ware, is also a
6 member of the leadership team, and the three men represent the fifth
7 generation of the Ware family to manage the institution; and

8 WHEREAS, Thought to be the largest 100-percent family-owned
9 bank in the nation, Amarillo National Bank has served its community
10 with unwavering dedication for a century and a quarter, and the Ware
11 family and their staff may indeed take great pride in the bank's
12 impressive history; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
14 Legislature hereby commemorate the 125th anniversary of Amarillo
15 National Bank and extend to the Ware family, their employees, and
16 their customers sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be
17 it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for Amarillo National Bank as an expression of high regard
20 by the Texas House of Representatives.