

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 280

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Named after a figure from the Bible, Edom is one of the oldest towns in the county, and it is home to 11 state historical markers, many of them researched by members of the Edom Historical Society; the residents of this small community also give hearty support to an active civic theater and popular arts fairs; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Wills Point was named for William Wills, who settled in the area in the 1840s and whose homestead became a way station for travelers; his original cabin still stands in Bruce Park, and the old Texas and Pacific Railroad depot features

exhibits of local history; as the official Bluebird Capital of Texas, Wills Point hosts the annual Bluebird Festival every April; and

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

WHEREAS, The people of Van Zandt County take great pride in their rich history as they work together to build an even brighter future, and it is indeed fitting to honor them and their unique contributions to the story of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

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

Hall

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 7, 2017.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate