

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 398

WHEREAS, On March 16, 2017, dignitaries and citizens from the City of West are coming to Austin to celebrate West Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Established at its present site in 1881 and officially becoming West nine years later, this small but vibrant community, which was named after farmer, postmaster, and businessman Thomas West, retains much of the same charm today that drew people to the area more than 100 years ago; and

WHEREAS, Among those attracted to this rich farmland were Czech immigrants who farmed the land, opened businesses, shared their European culture, and planted roots that are now indelibly woven into the identity of West; and

WHEREAS, The people of West embrace this heritage, making the town known and officially designated as the Czech Heritage Capital of the State of Texas and informally calling it the "Czech Point of Central Texas"; West is the place to be on Labor Day weekend for the annual tradition of Westfest, a celebration of Old World foods, music, arts and crafts, and many other activities; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of West also share in a proud heritage of helping one another through difficult times, such as through the West Fertilizer Company explosion; the citizens joined together to help their neighbors recover from the tragic event, and they became noted for their courage and resolve; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the years, West has been a premier stop for travelers on the I-35 corridor between Dallas and Austin, due

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to the bakeries that lure visitors with the promise of kolaches, which are delicious Czech pastries filled with sweet and savory ingredients; and

WHEREAS, Home to nearly 3,000 people, West is a small town with a big can-do attitude; whether it is for the food, the friendliness, or the largest spring-fed pool in the Lone Star State, residents of West have much to make them proud; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby recognize March 16, 2017, as West Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable visit to Austin.

Birdwell

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 8, 2017.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate