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By:  Ashby H.R. No. 116

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Proud residents of Lufkin and Angelina County are gathering in Austin on February 20, 2019, to celebrate Lufkin and Angelina County Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Set among the pine and hardwood forests of East Texas, this verdant area was first inhabited by the Caddo and Atakapan people; the county is said to be named after a Hainai Indian girl who aided Spanish missionaries in the early 1690s; and

WHEREAS, In 1801, a settler named Vicente Micheli purchased five and a half leagues of land in the area from the chief of the Bedias tribe; Anglo-American settlers began to arrive in 1820, and the Mexican government issued land grants in the region in the mid-1830s; after Texas independence, Angelina County was established from part of Nacogdoches County in 1846, and Lufkin was made county seat in 1892; and

WHEREAS, Following the arrival of the first railroad in 1882, lumber became the foundation of Angelina County's economy; by the turn of the 20th century, the nation's need for southern pine supported more than 15 lumber companies in the county; today, lumber, paper, and the manufacturing of oil-field equipment continue to be mainstays of the county's economy; and

WHEREAS, Residents and visitors alike enjoy the region's fine recreational opportunities; the Angelina National Forest is a favorite for hikers and campers, while the Sam Rayburn Reservoir is known for its boating, fishing, and waterskiing; the county's forestlands are also a prime habitat for many species of birds, drawing bird-watchers from around the state and nation; and

WHEREAS, As the largest town and the seat of government, Lufkin serves as the center of operations for many of the businesses in the county, particularly those relating to lumber and wood products; that industry's development is chronicled at the Texas Forestry Museum, and the city includes several other notable attractions, including the Museum of East Texas, the Ellen Trout Zoo and Park, and the Medford Collection of American Western Art, which exhibits the work of notable contemporary artists; in addition, Lufkin is home to the main campus of Angelina College; and

WHEREAS, Celebrating their rich history as they work to build an even brighter future, the citizens of Lufkin and Angelina County may take great pride in the important role their unique region continues to play in the story of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize February 20, 2019, as Lufkin and Angelina County Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best wishes for a meaningful and memorable stay in Austin.