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By:  Shine H.R. No. 640

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Cochran, Blair & Potts Department Store in Belton is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Thought to be the oldest department store in Texas, Cochran, Blair & Potts was established in Centerville in 1869 as Cook Mercantile Company by Colonel Henry Mansfield Cook; five years later, Colonel Cook brought his son-in-law, Thomas W. Cochran, into the business; the store moved to Buffalo in 1876 for proximity to the railroad; it stocked dry goods, hardware, drugs, and coffins, and it encompassed a lumberyard; and

WHEREAS, The shop relocated to its present-day site in 1884, and in 1917, it became Cochran, Blair & Potts, incorporating the names of owners Jesse S. Blair and Arthur H. Potts, who married into the Cochran family; in 1970, Roy and Jean Potts became the owners, and in turn, they handed over the reins to their son, Rob Potts Sr.; he was eventually joined by the family's seventh generation, represented by Robert Potts Jr., his wife, Ashley Potts, and Michael Potts; and

WHEREAS, In 1994, the store received an Official Texas Historical Marker from the Texas Historical Commission; recent years have seen a focus on selling clothing, boots, and other footwear, and space was set aside in the upper floor of the building for a museum of memorabilia; and

WHEREAS, Few family businesses can claim a heritage spanning 150 years, and the remarkable longevity of Cochran, Blair & Potts has engendered a special degree of esteem in the community; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize Cochran, Blair & Potts Department Store on its sesquicentennial and extend sincere best wishes for continued success to all those associated with this venerable enterprise; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the company as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.