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By:  Harris H.R. No. 758

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Residents of Palestine are gathering in Austin on March 12 and 13, 2019, in celebration of Palestine Days at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, In 1846, the first legislature of the State of Texas established Anderson County, and a county seat was laid out at its center on a 100-acre tract; it was named Palestine after a town in Illinois, the previous home of early settlers; the town's early prosperity derived from the shipment of agricultural goods down the Trinity River; in 1875, the county gave a $150,000 bonus to the International-Great Northern Railroad for locating its headquarters in Palestine, and within five years, the town's population doubled to more than 4,000; prominent citizens hired such noted architects as Nicholas Clayton and Wesley Clark Dodson to design numerous buildings that are now landmarks; and

WHEREAS, Palestine has continued to thrive as a transportation and shipping hub, due to its favorable location on major highways as well as the Union Pacific Railroad; in the 1980s, Walmart built its first distribution center outside of Arkansas in Palestine, and the retail giant added another center in 1994; the city is also home to wholesale beverage and aerospace parts distributors, a giftware company, and a growing medical industry; nurturing a well-educated workforce, it supports two colleges, Trinity Valley Community College-Palestine and The University of Texas at Tyler Palestine Campus; and

WHEREAS, A designated Texas Main Street City, Palestine draws visitors with a magnificent architectural legacy of structures dating from the early 19th to the mid-20th century, among them many restored Victorian homes; it boasts more than 1,800 historic sites, and the Texas State Railroad, the oldest heritage railway in the state, offers both steam and diesel train excursions; other popular attractions include the Museum for East Texas Culture, the Texas Theatre, and Davey Dogwood Park, which has hosted the annual Texas Dogwood Trails Celebration since 1944; and

WHEREAS, Palestine has practiced careful stewardship of its rich past and natural beauty while adapting to the changing demands of modern commerce, and its residents may take justifiable pride in the dynamic and beautiful place they call home; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize March 12 and 13, 2019, as Palestine Days at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable stay in Austin.