

By: Paddie

H.R. No. 400

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Panola County are gathering in Austin
2 on February 19, 2019, to celebrate Panola County Day at the State
3 Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Located in northeastern Texas and forming part of
5 the state's border with Louisiana, Panola County covers more than
6 800 square miles of forests and rolling plains and is traversed by
7 the Sabine River; on March 30, 1846, the Texas Legislature
8 officially created Panola County, and two years later, voters chose
9 Carthage as the county seat; and

10 WHEREAS, It is believed that Judge John Allison, a prominent
11 civic leader, suggested the name Panola, which may be derived from
12 the Cherokee word for cotton, *ponolo*; the area's rich soil was well
13 suited to the crop, and cotton became the county's main
14 agricultural product; today, Panola County enjoys a diversified
15 economy, primarily based in oil and gas production, agriculture,
16 food processing, and timber; the lush forests also make the county a
17 popular destination for hiking, birding, and camping enthusiasts,
18 while anglers enjoy the good fishing waters of Martin Creek Lake and
19 Murvaul Lake; and

20 WHEREAS, With nearly 50 Texas Historical Commission markers,
21 Panola County has a rich and fascinating history; it was the
22 birthplace of several notable Texans, including Margie Elizabeth
23 Neal, the first woman elected to serve in the Texas Senate, and
24 country music stars Tex Ritter and Jim Reeves; a museum dedicated to

1 Mr. Ritter and a memorial devoted to Mr. Reeves are located in
2 Carthage, as is the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame, which honors
3 the legacies of both of these men, along with other country music
4 legends from the state; and

5 WHEREAS, Carthage, which was named a National Main Street
6 City in Texas in 2011, is also home to Panola College and the
7 historic Esquire Theater, which hosts the Country Music Hayride
8 live music show every Saturday night; other popular events taking
9 place in the county seat include the Piney Woods Quilt Festival in
10 April and the Potlatch in October, which features a karaoke
11 contest, a car show, and arts and crafts; in addition, the
12 Footprints in the Sand monument, a poignant religious sculpture at
13 Phippen Memorial Park, was completed in 2014; and

14 WHEREAS, The citizens of Panola County take great pride in
15 their rich history as they work together to build an even brighter
16 future, and it is indeed fitting to honor them and their unique
17 contributions to the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
19 Legislature hereby recognize February 19, 2019, as Panola County
20 Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation
21 sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and informative stay in
22 Austin.