

By: Frullo

H.R. No. 551

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Many notable citizens of Lubbock are visiting Austin  
2 on February 27, 2019, to pay tribute to their city's rich heritage  
3 and to celebrate Lubbock Day at the State Capitol; and

4           WHEREAS, A thriving region of the state, the Lubbock area is  
5 one of the oldest inhabited places in Texas; archaeologists have  
6 discovered evidence of some 12,000 years of continuous habitation  
7 at the Lubbock Lake Landmark site, a national historic and state  
8 archaeological preserve; and

9           WHEREAS, The City of Lubbock was incorporated on March 16,  
10 1909; the railroads stimulated the city's growth as a trade center,  
11 but residents also wanted the benefits of an institution of higher  
12 learning; when legislation creating Texas Technological College  
13 was finally passed in 1923, the site selection committee was  
14 impressed by the enthusiasm and hospitality of the city's residents  
15 and chose Lubbock for the college's location; and

16           WHEREAS, Today, the city with its surrounding area has a  
17 population of more than 300,000 people, and it is home to the Texas  
18 Tech University System and its flagship institution, Texas Tech  
19 University, a school well deserving of its Tier One status; and

20           WHEREAS, The Texas Tech Health Sciences Center attracts  
21 nearly 5,000 students from around the world, and it is currently  
22 ranked as the number one health university in the nation by the SR  
23 Education Group; and

24           WHEREAS, Lubbock's three universities and one public

1 community college annually draw more than 50,000 students to the  
2 area and refresh the local economy with around 10,000 new graduates  
3 each year, creating a community where 30 percent of residents over  
4 the age of 25 hold a college degree or higher; and

5 WHEREAS, Texas Tech's athletic programs have recently  
6 achieved historic successes; the men's basketball team reached its  
7 first Elite Eight last season, and the baseball team has appeared  
8 three times in the College World Series in the past five years,  
9 while the track and field team has won indoor and outdoor Big 12  
10 championships; in addition, the women's basketball team at Lubbock  
11 Christian University won a national championship in 2016; and

12 WHEREAS, Lubbock's metropolitan area labor force numbers  
13 more than 165,000, and the cost of doing business continues to rank  
14 as one of the lowest in the nation, due to low costs for electric and  
15 natural gas utilities, as well as affordable land, wage rates, and  
16 cost of living; and

17 WHEREAS, Lubbock is consistently recognized by national  
18 organizations for its business-friendly atmosphere, and it has been  
19 named the number one city for professional women, ranked in the top  
20 20 for young entrepreneurs to start a business, and named seventh in  
21 the 2014 *Forbes* list of "Opportunity Cities" based on the city's low  
22 cost of living, its cultural offerings, and the strength of its  
23 business community; and

24 WHEREAS, Lubbock enjoys a diverse economy that draws its  
25 strength from agribusiness, manufacturing, and commerce, as well as  
26 from educational and health care services, and the city boasts the  
27 largest medical infrastructure to be found between Dallas and

1 Phoenix; with the growth of cotton culture on the High Plains,  
2 Lubbock has become one of the world's primary centers for the  
3 processing of cottonseed and hybrid grain sorghum seed; and

4 WHEREAS, The Lubbock economy is deeply rooted in cotton  
5 farming; the area is home to the world's largest contiguous  
6 cotton-growing region and also features several major,  
7 award-winning wineries and vineyards, which produce more than 80  
8 percent of all the state's wine grapes; the region north of Lubbock  
9 also has the highest density of cattle in the entire country; and

10 WHEREAS, Lubbock offers a wealth of cultural institutions and  
11 recreational opportunities, including the Lubbock Symphony  
12 Orchestra, the Lubbock Civic Ballet, the Museum and Planetarium and  
13 other offerings at Texas Tech University, and the Silent Wings  
14 Museum; a new, state-of-the-art performing arts center is under  
15 construction and is to be named after local legend and Rock 'n' Roll  
16 Hall of Fame inductee Buddy Holly; Lubbock County voters have also  
17 approved the construction of the new Lubbock County Expo Center to  
18 serve as a multipurpose event center for the region; and

19 WHEREAS, Through meticulously planned infrastructure, city  
20 leaders have created a low-traffic community with the number one  
21 ranked commute in the state and more neighborhood parks per capita  
22 than any other city in Texas; and

23 WHEREAS, Those wanting a glimpse of the frontier can find it  
24 in the restored structures at the Ranching Heritage Center, a  
25 15-acre site tracing the evolution of ranch architecture and the  
26 history of the cattle industry; the region's history is also  
27 celebrated at the Bayer Museum of Agriculture; and

1           WHEREAS, Many talented musicians have come from the Lubbock  
2 area; they include Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison, the Maines family,  
3 Virgil Johnson and the Velvets, Waylon Jennings, Tanya Tucker, Joe  
4 Ely, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Butch Hancock, Pat Green, and Josh  
5 Abbott; their rich and diverse contributions have earned Lubbock  
6 and West Texas recognition as the "Music Crossroads of Texas"; and

7           WHEREAS, Lubbock's thriving business community is  
8 represented by the largest business federation on the Texas South  
9 Plains, the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce, which grows and guards the  
10 prosperity of the Lubbock area; and

11           WHEREAS, Early major achievements propelled by the chamber  
12 during more than a century of service include recruiting  
13 out-of-state farmers to populate the area and make productive the  
14 fertile soils of the Llano Estacado, working to bring the railroad  
15 to Lubbock, founding the South Plains Fair, and drafting and  
16 delivering the application to the Texas Capitol that would result  
17 in establishing Texas Technological College, which today thrives as  
18 the heart of the Texas Tech University System; and

19           WHEREAS, The Lubbock Chamber of Commerce was also  
20 instrumental in establishing Lubbock Preston Smith International  
21 Airport, Reese Air Force Base, and the area's outstanding  
22 transportation infrastructure, and it recently introduced an  
23 Association Health Plan for its small-business members in 34 West  
24 Texas counties and is the first chamber in Texas to launch such a  
25 plan; and

26           WHEREAS, Among the delegation visiting the Capitol today are  
27 proud members of the chamber's 43rd Leadership Lubbock Class, who

1 represent the business and community leaders of Lubbock; and

2 WHEREAS, The citizens of Lubbock have truly kept faith with  
3 the founders of their West Texas community; renowned for their  
4 friendliness and warmth as well as their hardiness and  
5 determination, they have helped to build a vital urban center that  
6 serves not only a large part of West Texas but also eastern New  
7 Mexico; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
9 Legislature hereby recognize February 27, 2019, as Lubbock Day at  
10 the State Capitol and extend to the members of the visiting  
11 delegation and all their fellow citizens sincere appreciation for  
12 the bright luster they add to the Lone Star State.