

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, Few family businesses can claim a heritage spanning
24 150 years, and the remarkable longevity of Cochran, Blair & Potts

1 has engendered a special degree of esteem in the community; now,
2 therefore, be it

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

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

Shine

H.R. No. 640

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 640 was adopted by the House on
February 27, 2019, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House