

By: Shine

H.R. No. 640

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.