

By: Harris

H.R. No. 758

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

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

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

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