

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 120

**WHEREAS**, Proud residents of Midland and Odessa are gathering in Austin on February 5, 2019, to celebrate Midland-Odessa Day at the State Capitol; and

**WHEREAS**, Set only 20 miles apart in the ranching and oil country of West Texas, these vibrant Texas cities got their start as stops on the Texas and Pacific Railway in the 1880s; by 1890, Midland was one of the most important centers for shipping cattle in Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, Odessa began its rapid growth with the discovery of oil in the Permian Basin in the 1920s, and by the 1940s, it had grown from 750 residents to 10,000; by 1929, Midland was home to 36 oil companies, and the demand for oil during World War II helped Odessa to develop as a major processor and distributor of petroleum products and to become home to the largest inland petrochemical complex in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, Today, Midland continues to be the financial and administrative capital of the Permian Basin, while Odessa remains the center for the region's oil processing and distribution; looking to the future, the Midland Development Corporation and the Odessa Development Corporation are working to strengthen and diversify the area's economy; and

**WHEREAS**, Both Midland and Odessa are proud that the Bush presidential families and former Florida Governor Jeb Bush called Midland and Odessa home; and

**WHEREAS**, Odessa and Midland boast many fine historical and cultural attractions; in Odessa, the Presidential Archives and Leadership Library is the only museum in the nation dedicated to the history of the office of the presidency; located right next door is the Ellen Noël Art Museum, a Smithsonian affiliate that features world-class exhibits year-round; the Parker House Museum evokes the life of a prominent Texas ranching family, and the White-Pool House is the first residential home in Odessa and proudly displays items from both the White and Pool families; and

**WHEREAS**, Visitors and residents alike enjoy the live productions at the replica of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre on the campus of Odessa College and the Stonehenge replica on the campus of The University of Texas of the Permian Basin; also located in Odessa and enjoyed by more than 10,000 visitors every year is the nation's second-largest meteor crater and the adjoining museum; and

**WHEREAS**, Odessa's newest attraction is the Chris Kyle Memorial Plaza, which honors the former Navy Seal, who was born in Odessa, and which pays tribute to the past, current, and future veterans who serve our country so unselfishly; and

**WHEREAS**, Located between Midland and Odessa is the Wagner Noël Performing Arts Center, a state-of-the-art theater boasting 1,800 seats in the main theater and 200 seats in the recital hall; the theater hosts a variety of shows and performances guaranteed to attract all types of audiences; and

**WHEREAS**, Midland's Museum of the Southwest offers displays of the art and archaeology of the American Southwest, as well as the winning Kentucky Derby history of one of Midland's prominent families, and the newly remodeled interactive exhibits in the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum present the geology and history of oil while inspiring future industry players; and

**WHEREAS**, The Midland Army Airfield Museum preserves the history of the largest bombardier training school in World War II history and highlights the impact of West Texans during the war, and the Haley Library and History Center houses the first bell to hang in the Alamo and vast resources of oral and written history of the "cowboy" used by authors and historians to tell their tales; and

**WHEREAS**, The Midland Festival Ballet, the Midland-Odessa Symphony and Chorale, and the award-winning Midland Community Theatre offer live performances that inspire and entertain, and the 99-acre I-20 Wildlife Preserve and Jenna Welch Nature Study Center and 49-acre Sibley Nature Center celebrate the nature and history of the Permian Basin while showcasing the beauty and wildlife of the region; and

**WHEREAS**, For more than a century, the dynamic cities of Midland and Odessa have been at the economic and cultural hub of West Texas, and their citizens continue to celebrate their rich history as they work hard to build a prosperous future; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 86th Legislature, hereby recognize February 5, 2019, as Midland-Odessa Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best wishes for a memorable and meaningful stay in Austin.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 5, 2019.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate