88R22927 AMB-D

By:  Clardy H.R. No. 1057

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Residents of Panola County are gathering in Austin on April 12, 2023, to celebrate Panola County Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Located in northeastern Texas and forming part of the state's border with Louisiana, Panola County covers more than 800 square miles of forests and rolling plains and is traversed by the Sabine River; the Texas Legislature officially created Panola County on March 30, 1846, and two years later, voters chose Carthage as the county seat; and

WHEREAS, It is believed that Judge John Allison, a prominent civic leader, suggested the name Panola, which may be derived from the Cherokee word for cotton, *ponolo*; the area's rich soil was well suited to the crop, and cotton became the county's main agricultural product; today, Panola County enjoys a diversified economy, primarily based in oil and gas production, agriculture, food processing, and timber; the lush forests also make the county a popular destination for hiking, birding, and camping enthusiasts, while anglers enjoy the good fishing waters of Martin Creek Lake and Lake Murvaul; and

WHEREAS, Panola County's rich heritage is recognized by nearly 60 Texas Historical Commission markers; the county was the birthplace of several notable Texans, including Margie Elizabeth Neal, the first woman elected to serve in the Texas Senate, and country music stars Tex Ritter and Jim Reeves; a museum dedicated to Mr. Ritter and a memorial devoted to Mr. Reeves are located in Carthage, as is the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame, which honors the legacies of both of these men, along with other country music legends from the state; and

WHEREAS, Named a National Main Street City in Texas, Carthage is also home to Panola College and the historic Esquire Theater, which hosts the Country Music Hayride live music show; other popular events taking place in the county seat include the Piney Woods Quilt Festival in April, the annual Classic Country Music Festival Weekend in August, and Potlatch, an art, food, and music festival that takes place in the fall; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of Panola County take great pride in their rich history as they work together to build an even brighter future, and it is indeed fitting to honor them for their unique contributions to the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby recognize April 12, 2023, as Panola County Day at the State Capitol and extend a warm welcome to the visiting delegation.