

By: Burrows

H.R. No. 189

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Many notable citizens of Lubbock are visiting Austin
2 on February 22, 2023, to pay tribute to their city's rich heritage
3 and to celebrate Lubbock Day at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, A thriving region of the state, the Lubbock area is
5 one of the oldest inhabited places in Texas; archaeologists have
6 discovered evidence of some 12,000 years of continuous habitation
7 at the Lubbock Lake Landmark site, a national historic and state
8 archaeological preserve; and

9 WHEREAS, The City of Lubbock was incorporated on March 16,
10 1909; the railroads stimulated the city's growth as a trade center,
11 but residents also wanted the benefits of an institution of higher
12 learning; when legislation creating Texas Technological College
13 was finally passed in 1923, the site selection committee, impressed
14 by the enthusiasm and hospitality of local citizens, chose Lubbock
15 for its location; and

16 WHEREAS, Today a city of more than 300,000 people, Lubbock is
17 home to the Texas Tech University System and its flagship
18 institution, Texas Tech University, a school well deserving of its
19 Tier One status; and

20 WHEREAS, The Texas Tech Health Sciences Center attracts
21 approximately 5,000 students from around the world, and it was
22 named the number one graduate school in the nation by the SR
23 Education Group in 2016; it is also consistently ranked among the
24 top universities in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*; and

1 WHEREAS, Three universities, including Texas Tech
2 University, and one public community college annually draw more
3 than 53,000 students to the area and refresh the local economy with
4 around 10,000 new graduates each year, creating a community where
5 32 percent of residents over the age of 25 hold a college degree or
6 higher; and

7 WHEREAS, The athletic programs at Texas Tech University have
8 achieved a number of historic successes; the men's basketball team
9 has recently reached the Final Four, the baseball team has appeared
10 four times in the College World Series in the past decade, and the
11 men's outdoor track and field team has won a national championship
12 title; moreover, the women's basketball team at Lubbock Christian
13 University won national championships in 2016, 2019, and 2021; and

14 WHEREAS, Lubbock's regional labor force numbers more than
15 165,000, and the cost of doing business continues to rank as one of
16 the lowest in the nation, with one of the lowest costs for electric
17 and natural gas utilities, as well as affordable land, wage rates,
18 cost of living, and property taxes; and

19 WHEREAS, Lubbock is consistently recognized by national
20 organizations for its business-friendly atmosphere, including
21 being named the number one city for professional women, ranked in
22 the top 20 for young entrepreneurs to start a business, and named
23 seventh in the 2014 *Forbes* list of "Opportunity Cities" based on low
24 cost of living, cultural offerings, and the strength of the
25 business community; and

26 WHEREAS, Lubbock enjoys a diverse economy that draws its
27 strength from agribusiness, manufacturing, and commerce, as well as

1 from educational and medical facilities, boasting the largest
2 medical infrastructure to be found between Dallas and Phoenix; with
3 the growth of cotton culture on the High Plains, Lubbock has become
4 one of the world's primary centers for the processing of cottonseed
5 and hybrid grain sorghum seed; and

6 WHEREAS, The Lubbock economy is deeply rooted in cotton
7 farming, and the city remains home to the world's largest
8 contiguous cotton patch; the area also features several major,
9 award-winning wineries and vineyards, which produce more than 80
10 percent of all the state's wine grapes; the region north of Lubbock
11 has the highest density of cattle in the entire country; and

12 WHEREAS, Lubbock also offers a wealth of cultural
13 institutions and recreational opportunities, among them the
14 Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, the Lubbock Civic Ballet, the Museum
15 and Planetarium and other offerings at Texas Tech University, the
16 Silent Wings Museum, and a new, state-of-the-art performing arts
17 center named after local legend and Rock & Roll Hall of Famer Buddy
18 Holly; and

19 WHEREAS, City leaders meticulously planned infrastructure to
20 create a low-traffic community with more neighborhood parks per
21 capita than any other city in Texas; Lubbock is nicknamed the "Hub
22 City" because it is surrounded by five major highways, and it aims
23 to continue that legacy through the eventual expansion of
24 Interstate 27 that will assist in relieving congestion on other
25 major Texas highways; and

26 WHEREAS, Those wanting a glimpse of the frontier can find it
27 in the restored structures at the Ranching Heritage Center, a

1 15-acre site tracing the evolution of ranch architecture and the
2 history of the cattle industry; the region's history is also
3 celebrated at the Bayer Museum of Agriculture; and

4 WHEREAS, The talented musicians who have come from the
5 Lubbock area include Buddy Holly, Roy Orbison, the Maines family,
6 Virgil Johnson and the Velvets, Waylon Jennings, Tanya Tucker, Joe
7 Ely, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Pat Green, and Butch Hancock; their rich
8 and diverse contributions have earned Lubbock and West Texas
9 recognition as the official "Music Crossroads of Texas"; and

10 WHEREAS, Lubbock's thriving business community is
11 represented by the largest business federation on the Texas South
12 Plains, the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce, which grows and guards the
13 prosperity of the Lubbock area; early major achievements by the
14 chamber during more than a century of service include recruiting
15 out-of-state farmers to populate the area and make productive the
16 fertile soils of the Llano Estacado, securing railroad service,
17 founding the South Plains Fair, and drafting and delivering the
18 application to the Texas Capitol that would result in establishing
19 Texas Technological College, which today thrives as the heart of
20 the Texas Tech University System; and

21 WHEREAS, The Lubbock Chamber of Commerce was also
22 instrumental in establishing Lubbock Preston Smith International
23 Airport, Reese Air Force Base, outstanding transportation
24 infrastructure, and a revolutionary market-driven Chamber Employer
25 Health Plan that is a model nationwide; committed to revitalizing
26 the community and creating a culturally sound, vibrant downtown,
27 the chamber oversees the efforts of Imagine Lubbock Together, a

1 private-public partnership; moreover, it is the nation's first and
2 only chamber to be twice 5-Star Accredited and twice named Chamber
3 of the Year; and

4 WHEREAS, Among the delegation visiting the Capitol today are
5 proud members of the chamber's 47th Leadership Lubbock class, who
6 represent the future business and community leaders of Lubbock; and

7 WHEREAS, The citizens of Lubbock have truly kept faith with
8 the founders of their West Texas community; renowned for their
9 friendliness and warmth as well as their hardiness and
10 determination, they have helped to build a vital urban center that
11 serves not only a large part of West Texas but also eastern New
12 Mexico; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
14 Legislature hereby recognize February 22, 2023, as Lubbock Day at
15 the State Capitol and extend to the members of the visiting
16 delegation and all their fellow citizens sincere appreciation for
17 the bright luster they add to the Lone Star State.