

R E S O L U T I O N

1       WHEREAS, Proud residents are gathering in Austin on  
2 February 13, 2023, to celebrate Hardin County Day at the State  
3 Capitol; and

4       WHEREAS, Situated northeast of Houston, Hardin County is  
5 predominantly made up of pine and hardwood forests in the East Texas  
6 Timberlands region; attracted by the mineral waters of Medicine  
7 Lake, Native Americans visited the area long before it became part  
8 of the Atascosito District of Spanish and Mexican Texas; attempts  
9 at colonization began in earnest in 1834 when the Mexican  
10 government made land grants, and in 1835, Stephen Jackson founded a  
11 settlement at Sour Lake; and

12       WHEREAS, Following the Texas Revolution, the area was split  
13 between the jurisdictions of Liberty and Jefferson Counties; in  
14 1858, the State Legislature established Hardin County, drawing  
15 territory from both parent counties; under state law, the county's  
16 name honored the Hardin family of Liberty, and the county seat also  
17 bore that name; in 1881, the Sabine and East Texas Railroad bypassed  
18 Hardin in favor of its own newly established town, Kountze, which  
19 ultimately became the county seat; and

20       WHEREAS, Early farmers in Hardin County raised corn, sweet  
21 potatoes, hogs, cattle, sheep, and horses; as early as 1878,  
22 loggers were floating cut timber to the Neches River and on to  
23 Beaumont, and by 1881, at least two lumber-processing mills were  
24 operating in the county; the subsequent arrivals of other railway

1 companies further stimulated the lumber industry; a big economic  
2 boost came with the discovery of oil at Saratoga and Batson and the  
3 development of the Sour Lake oil field in 1903; today, chambers of  
4 commerce in Kountze, Lumberton, Silsbee, and Sour Lake promote  
5 economic development in their communities; and

6 WHEREAS, Hardin County is further buoyed by its robust  
7 ecotourism, which offers ample opportunities for camping,  
8 paddling, fishing, hiking, biking, and wildlife viewing; a major  
9 attraction is the Big Thicket National Preserve, where visitors can  
10 explore nine different ecosystems; moreover, Village Creek State  
11 Park sits along one of the few free-flowing creeks in Texas, and the  
12 Roy E. Larsen Sandyland Sanctuary protects diverse plant  
13 communities; and

14 WHEREAS, Residents of Hardin County are working together to  
15 build an even brighter future, and this special day provides a  
16 fitting opportunity to pay tribute to the county and its people;  
17 now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
19 Legislature hereby recognize February 13, 2023, as Hardin County  
20 Day at the State Capitol and extend a warm welcome to the visiting  
21 delegation.

Bailes

H.R. No. 194

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 194 was adopted by the House on  
February 15, 2023, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House