

By: Perry

S.R. No. 195

SENATE RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The Texas Tech Health Sciences Center attracts nearly 5,000 students from around the world and is currently ranked as the number one health university in the nation by the SR Education Group, ranking higher than programs at such other

notable institutions as Harvard University, Stanford University, and Yale University; and

WHEREAS, Three universities, including Texas Tech and one public community college, annually draw more than 50,000 students to the area and refresh the local economy with approximately 10,000 new graduates each year, creating a community where more than 30 percent of residents over the age of 25 hold a college degree or higher; and

WHEREAS, Texas Tech's athletic programs have recently achieved historic successes; the men's basketball team has recently reached the Final Four, the baseball team has appeared four times in the College World Series in the past decade, and the men's outdoor track and field team has earned national championships, while Lubbock Christian University's women's basketball team won national championships in 2016, 2019, and 2021; and

WHEREAS, Lubbock's metropolitan-area labor force comprises 165,000 workers, and the cost of doing business ranks as one of the lowest in the nation, with some of the lowest costs for electric and natural gas utilities, wage rates, affordable land, and cost of living; and

WHEREAS, Lubbock is consistently recognized by national organizations for its business-friendly atmosphere, including being named the number one city for women professionals; it is ranked in the top 20 cities for young entrepreneurs starting a business and was named seventh in the *Forbes* list of top "Opportunity Cities," based on its low cost of living, its

cultural resources, and the strength of its business community; and

WHEREAS, Lubbock has a diverse economy that draws its strength from agribusiness, manufacturing, and commerce as well as from educational and health care services, boasting the largest medical infrastructure between Dallas and Phoenix; with the growth of the cotton industry on the High Plains, Lubbock has become one of the world's primary centers for the processing of cottonseed and hybrid-grain sorghum seed; the region north of Lubbock has the highest density of cattle in the entire country; and

WHEREAS, Lubbock is now the home of several major award-winning wineries and vineyards that produce more than 80 percent of the state's wine grapes; and

WHEREAS, Lubbock offers a wealth of cultural and recreational opportunities, including the Lubbock Symphony Orchestra, the Lubbock Civic Ballet, the Silent Wings Museum, the Museum and Planetarium of Texas Tech University and many other cultural offerings at Texas Tech University, and a new, state-of-the-art performing arts center named after local legend and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee Buddy Holly; and

WHEREAS, The city's meticulously planned infrastructure has resulted in a low-traffic community and more neighborhood parks per capita than any other city in Texas; and

WHEREAS, Lubbock was nicknamed the "Hub City" because it is at the intersection of five major highways; it aims to continue that renown through the eventual expansion of

Interstate 27, which will help to relieve the traffic congestion of other major Texas highways; and

WHEREAS, Those wanting a glimpse of frontier history can find it in the restored structures at the Ranching Heritage Center, a 15-acre site tracing the evolution of ranch architecture and the history of the cattle industry; the region's history is also celebrated at the Bayer Museum of Agriculture; and

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

WHEREAS, Lubbock's thriving business community is represented by the largest business federation on the Texas South Plains, the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce, which expands and guards the prosperity of the Lubbock area; and

WHEREAS, Early major achievements propelled by the chamber of commerce during more than a century of service include recruiting farmers from out of state to produce crops on the fertile soils of the Llano Estacado, working to bring the railroad to Lubbock, establishing the South Plains Fair, and drafting and delivering to the Texas Capitol the application that would result in establishing Texas Technological College, which today is the heart of the Texas Tech University System; and

WHEREAS, The Lubbock Chamber of Commerce was instrumental

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in establishing Lubbock Preston Smith International Airport, Reese Air Force Base, and outstanding transportation infrastructure and was the first chamber of commerce in Texas to introduce an Association Health Plan for 34 West Texas counties, which became a model nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Among the delegation visiting the Capitol today are members of the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce's 47th Leadership Lubbock Class who represent the business and community leaders of Lubbock; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of Lubbock have truly kept faith with the founders of their West Texas community; renowned for their hospitality and warmth as well as their hardiness and determination, they have helped to build a vital urban center that serves not only a large part of West Texas but also the surrounding regions; now, therefore, be it

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