

By: Harris

H.R. No. 79

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The members of the House of Representatives of the  
2 89th Texas Legislature are pleased to recognize the city of  
3 Palestine and to honor its residents for the important  
4 contributions they are making to the Lone Star State; and

5           WHEREAS, In 1846, the first legislature of the State of Texas  
6 established Anderson County, and a county seat was laid out at its  
7 center on a 100-acre tract; it was named Palestine after a town in  
8 Illinois, the previous home of early settlers; the town's early  
9 prosperity derived from the shipment of agricultural goods down the  
10 Trinity River; in 1875, the county gave a \$150,000 bonus to the  
11 International-Great Northern Railroad for locating its  
12 headquarters in Palestine, and within five years, the town's  
13 population doubled to more than 4,000; prominent citizens hired  
14 such noted architects as Nicholas Clayton and Wesley Clark Dodson  
15 to design numerous buildings that are now landmarks; and

16           WHEREAS, Palestine has continued to thrive as a  
17 transportation and shipping hub, due to its favorable location on  
18 major highways as well as the Union Pacific Railroad; in the 1980s,  
19 Walmart built its first distribution center outside of Arkansas in  
20 Palestine, and the retail giant added another center in 1994; the  
21 city is also home to wholesale beverage and aerospace parts  
22 distributors and a growing medical industry; nurturing a  
23 well-educated workforce, it supports two colleges, Trinity Valley  
24 Community College-Palestine and The University of Texas at Tyler

1 Palestine Campus; and

2           WHEREAS, A designated Texas Main Street City, Palestine draws  
3 visitors with a magnificent architectural legacy of structures  
4 dating from the early 19th to the mid-20th centuries, among them  
5 many restored Victorian homes; it boasts more than 1,800 historic  
6 sites, and the Texas State Railroad, the oldest heritage railway in  
7 the state, offers both steam and diesel train excursions; in  
8 addition, travelers flock to Palestine to marvel at the unique  
9 beauty of the dogwood trees at Davey Dogwood Park, a 254-acre park  
10 with eight miles of unincorporated hiking and biking trails and  
11 scenic views; and

12           WHEREAS, Palestine has practiced careful stewardship of its  
13 rich past and natural beauty while adapting to the changing demands  
14 of modern commerce, and its residents may take justifiable pride in  
15 the dynamic and beautiful place they call home; now, therefore, be  
16 it

17           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas  
18 Legislature hereby recognize the city of Palestine and extend to  
19 its citizens sincere best wishes for the future.