

By: Frank

H.R. No. 437

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Wichita Falls are gathering in
2 Austin on March 5, 2025, to celebrate Wichita Falls Day at the State
3 Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Wichita Falls, situated in southeast Wichita
5 County, was founded after the arrival of the Fort Worth and Denver
6 City Railroad on September 26, 1882; the railroad allowed local
7 farmers and ranchers to transport crops and livestock to distant
8 markets, facilitating the growth of the area's agricultural
9 economy; Wichita Falls was named the county seat in November 1883,
10 and it was officially incorporated on July 29, 1889; and

11 WHEREAS, By 1910, additional railroad lines had been built
12 that reinforced the city's status as a shipping junction for
13 farmers and ranchers; wheat later supplanted corn as the primary
14 cash crop grown in the area, and in 1918, the discovery of oil
15 sparked a wave of exploration throughout North Texas; in 1933, the
16 growth of the community necessitated the creation of a manmade
17 lake, Lake Wichita, to supply its water; during World War I, Wichita
18 Falls welcomed the arrival of an Army Air Corps training facility
19 known as Call Field, which preceded the opening of Sheppard Field,
20 now Sheppard Air Force Base, in 1941; and

21 WHEREAS, By the mid-20th century, manufacturing had become an
22 increasingly important industry, earning Wichita Falls the
23 nickname "Factory City"; in 1979, the city was struck by a tornado
24 that destroyed a large portion of its southwestern area, but it

1 rebounded in the years that followed and was recognized nationally
2 for its rapid recovery; and

3 WHEREAS, Today, Wichita Falls is home to more than 100,000
4 residents, representing the overwhelming majority of Wichita
5 County's population; the city is located within two hours of two
6 metropolitan areas, the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and Oklahoma
7 City, and it offers a family-friendly environment with an expansive
8 parks system and a wide range of amenities such as museums,
9 community theaters, golf courses, and family entertainment
10 centers; and

11 WHEREAS, The community's educational institutions include
12 the Wichita Falls Independent School District, Midwestern State
13 University, and Vernon College, and it is home to a number of
14 state-of-the-art medical facilities that make it a regional
15 destination for health care; the city continues to enjoy a strong
16 manufacturing base that supplies products for numerous industries;
17 moreover, the community benefits from the efforts of the Wichita
18 Falls Chamber of Commerce, which has worked diligently to promote
19 its economic development since 1901; and

20 WHEREAS, Wichita Falls has earned a well-deserved reputation
21 as an outstanding place to live and work, and its citizens may take
22 justifiable pride in the unique contributions that their community
23 has made to the story of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
25 Legislature hereby recognize March 5, 2025, as Wichita Falls Day at
26 the State Capitol and extend a warm welcome to the visiting
27 delegation.