

By: Taylor of Collin

H.R. No. 740

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents from Collin County are gathering at the
2 State Capitol on March 7 and 8, 2011, to celebrate Collin County
3 Days, and this event provides an opportunity to pay tribute to its
4 many prosperous communities; and

5 WHEREAS, Once inhabited by the Caddo Indians, this North
6 Texas area began attracting settlers in the early 1840s; both the
7 county, which was created in 1846, and the present county seat,
8 McKinney, which was established in 1849, were named in honor of
9 pioneer resident Collin McKinney, a signer of the Texas Declaration
10 of Independence; and

11 WHEREAS, Collin County has experienced one of the fastest
12 growth rates in Texas in recent years, and much of its 886 square
13 miles has been transformed into a bustling urban area; more than
14 780,000 people now make their home in the county; and

15 WHEREAS, With a population of nearly 260,000, Plano is the
16 largest city in the county and a thriving commercial center that
17 recently added 4,000 new jobs from 39 new businesses; designated an
18 All-America City by the National Civic League in 1994, it is the
19 first Texas city to be rated AAA by all three major bond-rating
20 agencies, an accomplishment that is a credit to respected longtime
21 city manager Tom Muehlenbeck, who retired in 2010; and

22 WHEREAS, Visitors to Plano can enjoy shops and malls with
23 many pleasant amenities and a restored downtown square, which
24 features brick sidewalks, turn-of-the-century lampposts, and

1 numerous specialty stores, galleries, and restaurants; this
2 charming community is home to Amy Chayao, winner of the 2010
3 International Science and Engineering Fair, who was invited to join
4 First Lady Michelle Obama at the 2011 State of the Union address;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, McKinney, the county seat and second-largest city,
7 boasts a population of more than 131,000; it ranked fifth among the
8 "Best Places to Live" by *Money* magazine and was honored as one of
9 the "Top 100" places to raise a family by *Best Life* magazine;
10 moreover, the city's Main Street program has been jointly
11 recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the
12 Texas Historical Commission, and the city is also home to the Collin
13 County Regional Airport and other assets; and

14 WHEREAS, The site now occupied by the city of Frisco was once
15 a Native American campground; with the arrival of the railroad in
16 the county in the 1870s and the subsequent growth of the area's
17 cotton industry, Frisco became a commercial center for farmers and
18 ranchers; incorporated in 1902, the town grew slowly until the late
19 1980s, when it had a population of 5,000; today that figure stands
20 at nearly 117,000, and the city serves as a hub of regional and
21 international business; Frisco is home to several professional
22 sports teams, including FC Dallas, the Texas Tornado hockey team,
23 the Frisco Rough Riders baseball team, and the Texas Legends
24 basketball team, and to the corporate headquarters of the Dallas
25 Stars hockey team, and it hosted the 2011 NCAA Division I football
26 championship on January 7; the town has also emerged as a vibrant
27 center for cultural offerings; and

1 WHEREAS, The city of Allen is home to two especially
2 well-known residents, Olympic gold medal-winning gymnast Carly
3 Patterson and artist Amanda Dunbar; it has a population of more than
4 84,000 and was ranked 16th among the "Best Places to Live" by *Money*
5 magazine; its citizens are dedicated to the development of a
6 quality community with an exceptional education system,
7 family-oriented residential areas, innovative recreational
8 facilities, and premier business developments; and

9 WHEREAS, Wylie is another great place to call home; rated the
10 eighth fastest-growing suburb in the United States by *Forbes*
11 magazine, it numbers over 41,000 residents and benefits from a
12 skilled police force and a fire department that has earned a coveted
13 ISO Class 1 Fire Protection Rating; in addition, Wylie has an
14 outstanding school district and an annual championship rodeo and
15 has made significant investments in infrastructure; and

16 WHEREAS, Other communities add much to Collin County's
17 allure; Parker was rated the "Most Desirable Suburb in North Texas"
18 by *D Magazine* and is the home of Southfork Ranch, the filming
19 location for the television series *Dallas*; Celina has gained
20 statewide fame for its Bobcats high school football team, which has
21 captured eight state titles and recently appeared in a Kenny
22 Chesney music video; true to its name, the town of Prosper has grown
23 larger in recent years and now has excellent access to the
24 Dallas-Fort Worth metro area, thanks to the opening of a Dallas
25 North Tollway extension; that community's residents are especially
26 appreciative of their skilled firefighters and paramedics, whose
27 courage and quick action have saved numerous lives; and

1 WHEREAS, Farmersville boasts two businesses that have been in
2 operation for more than 125 years, the *Farmersville Times* and
3 Independent Bank; it is also the hometown of Audie Murphy, the most
4 decorated American combat soldier of World War II, while the
5 community of Princeton served during that same war as a German
6 prisoner-of-war camp; the city of Murphy has undertaken \$15 million
7 in capital projects to improve parks, streets, water systems, and
8 landscaping and is consistently cited for its desirability;
9 Melissa, platted in 1872, now features a new city hall and a stellar
10 school district, and residents are cheering the top-ranked Melissa
11 High School boys' basketball team; and

12 WHEREAS, The city of Anna was recently presented with the
13 2010 Hardworking Rural Community Tall Texan Award by Texas
14 Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples, and its school district's
15 five-star rating from the Texas comptroller is a testament to the
16 exemplary and cost-effective educational approach of the
17 community; as a dedicated Tree City USA, Fairview is committed to
18 preserving the area's country lifestyle while providing
19 opportunities for economic development; Sachse, with a population
20 of 20,000, is completing a major bond program that includes park
21 renovations, thoroughfare improvements, and a municipal complex;
22 in southeastern Collin County, Royse City maintains a small-town
23 atmosphere with close proximity to the large municipalities of the
24 Metroplex; and

25 WHEREAS, Also contributing to the development of Collin
26 County are citizens from Blue Ridge, Copeville, Josephine, Lavon,
27 Lowry Crossing, Lucas, Nevada, New Hope, St. Paul, Westminster, and

1 Weston, along with parts of Dallas, Garland, and Richardson, and
2 those communities play an important part in the county's
3 flourishing, diversified economy and its commendable quality of
4 life; and

5 WHEREAS, An excellent educational system is critical to the
6 strength of any community, and *Forbes* magazine has lauded Collin
7 County schools for their impressive performance; that media outlet
8 has also dubbed Plano the safest city in America, and the rest of
9 the county enjoys a similar reputation for safe streets, schools,
10 and neighborhoods, with McKinney and Murphy also recently
11 recognized as standouts; and

12 WHEREAS, The citizens of this notable North Texas county are
13 working to preserve the best of their past even as they look forward
14 to a bright and promising future, and they are sure to figure
15 prominently in the growth and prosperity of the Lone Star State in
16 the years ahead; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
18 Legislature hereby recognize March 7 and 8, 2011, as Collin County
19 Days at the State Capitol and extend sincere best wishes to all the
20 county residents who have traveled to Austin for this event.