

By: Zaffirini

S.R. No. 435

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Proud citizens of La Salle County are visiting the State Capitol on April 18, 2023, to celebrate the role their South Texas home has played in the annals of the Lone Star State; and

WHEREAS, In the Spanish colonial era, the Old Presidio Road passed through present-day La Salle County; Coahuila governor Alonso De Leon used this road on his way to search for the French settlement of the Sieur de La Salle, as did the famed missionary and historian Friar Juan Agustin Morfi; and

WHEREAS, Although the county was created in 1858, outlaw activity and Indian raids delayed settlement; Fort Ewell, established in 1852 to protect travelers, was abandoned two years later; with the last Indian raid occurring in 1878, however, the arrival of the railroad in the early 1880s and the gradual suppression of desperadoes, ranching soon became a viable project; and

WHEREAS, One of the ranches established during this period was a huge spread managed by the Hall brothers, among them Jesse Leigh "Lee" Hall, a noted Texas Ranger who had been instrumental in bringing order to South Texas; Lee Hall became the prototype for the Texas Ranger who appears in many short stories by the writer O. Henry, who spent two years on the ranch while seeking to improve his health; and

WHEREAS, Ranching remains a major part of the county's economy; other income is derived from oil and gas, a significant industry here since the 1950s, and from agriculture; the South Texas practice of cool-season farming originated in La Salle County in the 1890s, and by 1910 the county was the leading vegetable producer in the Winter Garden Region; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of La Salle County are heirs to a notable history and heritage, and their productivity and dedication to being good stewards of the earth are a model for all Texans and are truly worthy of commendation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 88th Legislature, hereby recognize April 18, 2023, as La Salle County Day at the State Capitol and extend to the county's residents and delegates sincere best wishes for a memorable and rewarding visit; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this special occasion.