

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 130

WHEREAS, Many proud South Texas citizens are visiting the State Capitol on February 12, 2003, to celebrate the history and numerous attractions of Jim Wells County; and

WHEREAS, The county was created out of Nueces County in 1911 and named for James B. Wells, Jr., an attorney and prominent South Texas political figure; Alice, the county seat, traces its roots to a railroad depot called Bandana, established in 1883 at the junction of two railroads; other communities in the county include Ben Bolt, Orange Grove, Premont, Rancho Alegre, Sandia, and part of San Diego; and

WHEREAS, Livestock raising has constituted a mainstay of the area's economy since Texas formed part of the Spanish Empire; for a time in the late 1800s, Alice served as the world's largest shipping point for cattle, and in the 20th century the Beefmaster, a cattle breed designed to thrive in the challenging South Texas environment, was developed in Jim Wells County; and

WHEREAS, Other significant sectors of the economy include farming, which developed on a large scale after 1910, and the petroleum and natural gas industry, which burgeoned after the discovery of oil in the county in 1931; and

WHEREAS, Jim Wells County is poised for substantial economic growth as a result of its location within the I-69 International Trade Corridor, which links the United States with its two largest trading partners, Canada and Mexico; one component of this corridor, U.S. Highway 281, traverses Jim Wells County from north to south, while State Highway (S.H.) 44 crosses the county from east to west, connecting Corpus Christi to Laredo via U.S. Highway 59; this U.S. 59/S.H. 44 segment forms part of the Texas Trunk System and was designated by state officials in 1998 as one of 10 Phase I High Priority Corridors; and

WHEREAS, In addition to an expanding economy, residents enjoy an array of recreational opportunities, ranging from wildflower tours, to rodeos, to Fiesta Bandana; cultural resources include the South Texas Museum and the Tejano R.O.O.T.S. Hall of Fame Museum, which has just hosted the first Tejano Musician Reunion; and

WHEREAS, Two outstanding hospitals, Christus Spohn Hospital Alice, which opened in 1999, and Alice Regional Hospital, which opened in 1931 and recently completed a new \$40 million facility, have made the county seat an important regional medical center; and

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WHEREAS, The productive and forward-looking citizens of Jim Wells County are building on a sturdy foundation of progressive development, and it is a pleasure to recognize their industry, their achievements, and their public spirit; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby recognize February 12, 2003, as Jim Wells County Day at the State Capitol and extend to the delegation here today sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable visit.

Hinojosa

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 12, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate