

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 697**

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize April 27, 2005, as Big Spring Area Day at the Capitol; a West Texas city with a rich history, Big Spring is known for its brilliant skies and earnest hospitality, and the "Big Sky, Big Heart" community stands ready to move into the future; and

**WHEREAS**, Big Spring is the regional hub for a variety of health-care services, including the Big Spring State Hospital, which furnishes psychiatric inpatient services for 57 West Texas counties and provides mental health care to the Veteran's Administration Hospital for West Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona; and

**WHEREAS**, West Texas Centers for Mental Health and Mental Retardation supports an area of 23 counties with a wide array of mental health and mental retardation services, as well as early childhood intervention assistance to more than 2,200 individuals each year; and

**WHEREAS**, One of the first homes of its kind, Lamun-Lusk-Sanchez State Veterans Home continues to provide long-term care for veterans and their spouses, allowing them to reside in dignity and comfort in their senior years; and

**WHEREAS**, Big Spring maintains a vital oil and gas industry, and its citizens recently enjoyed a citywide celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Big Spring Alon Refinery; agriculture and ranching remain the cornerstones of the city's economy, but the importance of economic diversity has brought teleservices, plastics, and composites manufacturing to the area; and

**WHEREAS**, Educational excellence is paramount to the citizens of Big Spring; Howard College and Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf provide essential programs for a skilled workforce; students from Big Spring, Coahoma, and Forsan Independent School Districts are encouraged to acquire skills and education needed to meet future personal and economic goals; and

**WHEREAS**, The Colorado River Municipal Water District was created by the 51st Texas Legislature to provide a dependable source of water supply to its member cities, and for the last 56 years the district has successfully carried out that mission by never having rationed water to the more than 425,000 people it serves in West Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, Big Spring offers its citizens the possibility of job opportunities, educational advancement, and recreational activities; the city and its citizens have made important contributions to the vitality and prosperity of Texas; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby extend to the citizens of Big Spring,

S.R. No. 697

Forsan, and Coahoma best wishes for a delightful Big Spring Area Day at the Capitol; and, be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for them as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 27, 2005.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate