

By: Gonzalez Toureilles

H.R. No. 374

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Citizens of Jim Wells County are assembling at the  
2 State Capitol on February 15, 2007, to celebrate the importance of  
3 their home to the history of the State of Texas; and

4 WHEREAS, A landscape of sweeping grasslands and wide  
5 horizons, the county's early inhabitants, the Chaguane and Payuguan  
6 tribes, enjoyed the region's mild winters and abundant game; after  
7 the first European settlement in 1754, at Penitas Creek, Mexican  
8 ranchers developed land grants into sheep and cattle ranches; in  
9 1848 the region became part of the State of Texas, and it was  
10 formally incorporated as a county in 1911 and named after the  
11 prominent politician James B. Wells, Jr.; and

12 WHEREAS, With the arrival of the railroad in the 1870s,  
13 county seat Alice became the most important livestock shipment  
14 junction in South Texas, and ranching has remained a mainstay of the  
15 county's economy ever since; cotton and sorghum are important  
16 crops, as are hay, corn, and wheat; since the discovery of oil in  
17 1931, the county has become one of the all-time leaders in oil  
18 production in Texas; and

19 WHEREAS, The importance of Tejano culture to the county and  
20 to all of Texas is honored by the Tejano Roots Hall of Fame in Alice,  
21 recognizing the region as the birthplace of this popular musical  
22 genre; South Texas culture is further showcased at the South Texas  
23 Museum, housed in the historic McGill Brothers Building in Alice;  
24 the annual Fiesta Bandana, celebrating Cinco de Mayo, is a

1 highlight of the county's cultural calendar; and

2       WHEREAS, The county is also the region's center for health  
3 care, with two outstanding facilities, the CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital  
4 Alice and the CHRISTUS Spohn Laviana Plaza; and

5       WHEREAS, The hard-working and forward-looking citizens of  
6 Jim Wells County are building on a long tradition of progressive  
7 development, and their industry, achievements, and public spirit  
8 are indeed worthy of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

9       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
10 Legislature hereby recognize February 15, 2007, as Jim Wells County  
11 Day at the State Capitol and extend to its citizens sincere best  
12 wishes for a memorable visit to Austin.