

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 757

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Duval County are visiting Austin to
2 celebrate Duval County Day at the State Capitol on March 14, 2007;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, This rolling brushland was first inhabited by the
5 Venado tribe who lived off the bison, deer, and the wild fruits and
6 nuts of the region; later the Apache and the Comanche peoples moved
7 through the country, as well as Spanish expeditions coming north
8 from Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, The earliest European settlers were herdsmen; in
10 1848 Pablo Perez established the first town, originally called
11 Perezville but later changed to San Diego; naming it after Burr H.
12 Duval, a Texas revolutionary who was killed in the Goliad Massacre,
13 the Texas legislature formed Duval County in 1858, though it wasn't
14 organized until 1876; San Diego was made the county seat; and

15 WHEREAS, After a colorful period when outlaws and renegades
16 dominated the region's history, the arrival of the railroad helped
17 make Duval County a prosperous sheep-ranching area, and between
18 1873 and 1883 the county was said to have more sheep than any other
19 county in the nation; today the county's economy is founded upon
20 cattle ranching and oil; and

21 WHEREAS, Residents and visitors alike enjoy Duval County's
22 annual festivals; every year the Pan de Campo Fiesta in San Diego
23 celebrates the famous bread prepared by vaqueros on cattle drives
24 with a pan de campo competition, a parade, a beauty pageant, and

1 live musical entertainment; and

2 WHEREAS, The annual Freer Rattlesnake Roundup began in the
3 mid-1960s as the Oil-O-Rama, celebrating the oil industry, but
4 shifted focus to the crowd-pleasing roundup of rattlesnakes; the
5 Roundup features carnival rides, the Mama Salsa Contest, and
6 performances by some of the biggest names in country and western and
7 Tejano music; and

8 WHEREAS, The year 2006 brought the election of a new county
9 judge, Abel Aragon; born and raised in San Diego, where he graduated
10 from St. Frances Catholic School and San Diego High School, he has
11 bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Texas A&I
12 University in Kingsville; with over 40 years as a teacher and school
13 administrator in Freer and service on the Freer Independent School
14 District Board, Judge Aragon brings a wealth of experience to his
15 new position, and Duval County Day provides a fitting opportunity
16 to congratulate him and welcome the Duval County contingent to
17 Austin; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
19 Legislature hereby recognize March 14, 2007, as Duval County Day at
20 the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best wishes
21 for an informative and enjoyable stay in Austin.