

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 1660

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Residents of Zapata County are gathering in Austin  
2 to celebrate Zapata County Day at the State Capitol on April 26,  
3 2007; and

4           WHEREAS, This region of the South Texas plains along the Rio  
5 Grande has been inhabited by humans for 11,000 years; the first  
6 European explorer to pass through was Captain Miguel de la Garza  
7 Falcon, in 1747, and in 1750, 23 families from Coahuila settled at  
8 Nuestra Senora de los Dolores Hacienda, near present-day San  
9 Ygnacio; by 1755 the ferry there was the busiest crossing on the Rio  
10 Grande; and

11           WHEREAS, After the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 the  
12 region became part of Texas; the present county was formed from  
13 Starr and Webb counties in 1858 and named after Antonio Zapata, a  
14 leader of the short-lived Republic of the Rio Grande; today the  
15 county is a leading site for ranching and oil and gas production;  
16 and

17           WHEREAS, Situated on the shores of Falcon Lake, county seat  
18 Zapata is a prime destination for winter tourists, fishermen, and  
19 golfers; the Zapata County Fair is one of the largest small town  
20 fairs in Texas, featuring live entertainment by country and western  
21 and Tejano artists, as well as carnival rides, livestock and crafts  
22 displays, and a rodeo; Falcon Lake is an ideal location to fish for  
23 bass, stripers, and catfish; the area also provides excellent  
24 hunting for a variety of large game, including deer and javelina;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, With its distinctive Spanish-Mexican architecture,  
3 historic San Ygnacio offers visitors such historical attractions as  
4 the La Paz Museum, the Nuestra Senora del Refugio Catholic Church,  
5 and the Jesus Trevino Fort; and

6 WHEREAS, The county is widely recognized as a prized  
7 destination for birders, and rock hunters enjoy discovering the  
8 profusion of agates, jaspers, and petrified woods that have been  
9 deposited over the millennia by the Rio Grande; additionally, the  
10 World Hang-Gliding Encampment every July draws hang-gliders and  
11 paragliders from all over the world; taking advantage of the  
12 constant southeasterly wind blowing off the Gulf of Mexico, many  
13 hang-gliders have set world records in the county; and

14 WHEREAS, Preserving their rich heritage even as they look  
15 forward to a bright future, the citizens of Zapata County may take  
16 special pride in their contributions to the history and culture of  
17 the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
19 Legislature hereby recognize April 26, 2007, as Zapata County Day  
20 at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best  
21 wishes for an informative and enjoyable stay in Austin.