

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 474

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

WHEREAS, The rolling brushland of Duval County was first inhabited by the Venado tribe, who lived off the bison, deer, and the wild fruits and nuts of the region; later the Apache and the Comanche tribes moved through the area, as well as Spanish expeditions traveling north from Mexico; and

WHEREAS, The earliest European settlers were herdsmen; in 1848, Pablo Perez established the first town, which was originally named Perezville and later became known as San Diego; the Texas Legislature formed Duval County in 1858 and named it after Burr H. Duval, a Texas revolutionary who was killed in the Goliad Massacre; the county was organized in 1876, and San Diego was made the county seat; and

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

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

WHEREAS, The annual Freer Rattlesnake Roundup began in the mid-1960s as the Oil-O-Rama, in celebration of the oil industry; the event later shifted its focus to the crowd-pleasing roundup of rattlesnakes; the Freer Rattlesnake Roundup features carnival rides, the Mama Salsa Contest, and performances by some of the biggest names in country-western and Tejano music; and

WHEREAS, In 2006, the election of a new county judge, Abel Aragon, was held; born and raised in San Diego, Abel Aragon was graduated from Saint Frances Catholic School and San Diego High School; he holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in education from Texas A&I University--Kingsville; with over 40 years experience as a teacher and school administrator in Freer and service on the Freer Independent School District Board, Judge Aragon brings a wealth of experience to his new position, and Duval County Day provides a fitting opportunity to congratulate him and to welcome the Duval County contingent to Austin; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby recognize March 14, 2007, as Duval County Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best wishes for an informative and enjoyable stay in Austin; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this event.

Zaffirini

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 14, 2007.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate