

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 1134

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A number of proud West Texas citizens are gathering
2 in Austin on March 31, 2009, to celebrate Hudspeth County Day at the
3 State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Created out of El Paso County in 1917, Hudspeth
5 County covers more than 4,500 square miles of the vast Chihuahuan
6 Desert, and residents enjoy the area's great natural beauty,
7 sweeping vistas, and friendly, close-knit communities; and

8 WHEREAS, Numerous archeological sites in the county attest to
9 the presence of farmers and hunter-gatherers in prehistoric times,
10 and missionaries and soldiers from northern New Spain traversed the
11 area as early as 1581; in 1849, John S. "Rip" Ford and Major Robert
12 S. Neighbors charted a trail that would be used by many adventurers
13 on their way to the California gold fields; Fort Quitman was
14 established in 1858 on the Rio Grande, in the southern part of the
15 present-day county, to protect travelers and mail coaches en route
16 between San Antonio and El Paso; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1881, the country's second transcontinental
18 railroad was completed near what is now Sierra Blanca, and Jay Gould
19 drove in a silver spike to mark the occasion; the town of Sierra
20 Blanca quickly developed into a shipping point and commercial
21 center, and when the county was organized it became the county seat;
22 Dell City, in the north, and Fort Hancock, near the Rio Grande, are
23 the two other largest communities; and

24 WHEREAS, The economy of Hudspeth County has been based

1 chiefly on ranching, farming, and mining, along with tourism and
2 hunting leases; a section of the Guadalupe Mountains National Park,
3 a popular destination for outdoors enthusiasts, is located within
4 the county, as is part of the Sierra Diablo Wildlife Management
5 Area, which is home to the largest population of free-ranging
6 bighorn sheep in Texas; and

7 WHEREAS, Popular annual events include the Dell Valley
8 Hudspeth County Fair and Wild West Chile Fest, held jointly in Dell
9 City, the Dell City Junior Livestock Show, Halloween Parade, and
10 July Fourth fireworks, and the Sierra Blanca livestock show and
11 Fourth of July Fair; points of interest in Sierra Blanca include the
12 old railroad depot, which now houses the Hudspeth County Museum,
13 and the courthouse, which is the only such structure in Texas that
14 is built of adobe; and

15 WHEREAS, The citizens of Hudspeth County share a deep
16 appreciation for their beloved corner of the Lone Star State, and it
17 is a pleasure to recognize their achievements and their public
18 spirit; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
20 Legislature hereby recognize March 31, 2009, as Hudspeth County Day
21 at the State Capitol and extend to all those who have come to Austin
22 sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable visit.