

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 1137

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Loving County Day is taking place at the State
2 Capitol on March 31, 2009, and this occasion provides a welcome
3 opportunity to honor this notable West Texas county; and

4 WHEREAS, An area of plains and rolling hills along the
5 Texas-New Mexico border, Loving County is part of the Chihuahuan
6 Desert and lies to the east of the Pecos River; in prehistoric
7 times, the area was visited by nomadic hunters, but it saw little
8 settlement until well into the 1800s due to the lack of usable
9 water; the first community, Pope's Camp, was established in 1855;
10 Pope's Camp and another early town were based on irrigation
11 projects that sought to create a means of growing crops in the arid
12 surroundings, but these endeavors failed, and the settlements were
13 abandoned; and

14 WHEREAS, Loving County was separated into its own area in
15 1887 and named for early West Texas cattle rancher Oliver Loving,
16 but formal organization took longer; the first attempt to establish
17 local government in 1893 was plagued by problems, which resulted in
18 the area being reattached to Reeves County; it was not until 1931
19 that Loving County was organized, making it the last in the Lone
20 Star State to be permanently established and the only one to go
21 through the process twice; and

22 WHEREAS, In the 1800s and early 1900s, cattle ranching was
23 the mainstay of the local economy, and it remains important today;
24 petroleum exploration got under way in the 1920s, and the

1 production of oil and natural gas has since become Loving County's
2 primary industry; and

3 WHEREAS, The discovery of the county's rich petroleum
4 reserves brought new residents to the area in the 1930s, which led
5 to the establishment of the town of Ramsey; it was soon renamed
6 Mentone and became the county seat, growing larger as the residents
7 of the nearby settlement of Porterville moved to the new community;
8 today, Mentone is the county's only town and serves as a supply
9 center for nearby oil fields; it is home to the historic Loving
10 County Courthouse, built in 1936; and

11 WHEREAS, Though it is one of the least populated counties in
12 the nation, Loving County nonetheless plays an important role in
13 our state's energy industry, and it is a pleasure to honor this
14 distinctive area and the hardworking individuals who make their
15 homes there; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
17 Legislature hereby recognize March 31, 2009, as Loving County Day
18 at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere
19 best wishes for an enjoyable and productive visit to Austin.