

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 1308

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Citizens of Reeves County are celebrating Reeves
2 County Day at the State Capitol on April 15, 2009; and

3 WHEREAS, Situated on the rolling plains of far West Texas,
4 Reeves County was first inhabited by prehistoric people who lived
5 in rock shelters and caves in the Barilla Hills; the first Spanish
6 explorer visited the region in 1583, and the Madera Valley came to
7 be farmed by settlers from Mexico; Anglo-American farmers and
8 ranchers began to make their homes in the area in the 1870s, and the
9 railway arrived in 1881; the county was organized in 1884 and named
10 after Confederate colonel George R. Reeves; and

11 WHEREAS, Pecos, the county seat, began as a crossroads for
12 cattle trails and the railway, and in its early years earned a
13 colorful reputation as the site of several famous gunfights; a
14 number of cowboys challenged each other to a riding and roping
15 contest over the Fourth of July in 1883, and the town claims the
16 title as "Home of the World's First Rodeo"; the four-day West of the
17 Pecos Rodeo will celebrate its 127th year this summer; and

18 WHEREAS, Ranching and the farming of cotton, pecans,
19 pistachios, and other crops are the basis of the county's economy,
20 while the production of oil and natural gas also contributes to its
21 prosperity; thanks to alkaline soil and fine growing conditions,
22 the Pecos cantaloupe is prized across the nation for its sweetness
23 and overall flavor; and

24 WHEREAS, Reeves County is a popular destination for tourists

1 seeking to experience the history of the Old West; the West of the
2 Pecos Museum evokes the life of lawmen, ranchers, and schoolmarms
3 in 50 rooms of a historic old saloon and hotel, while the park next
4 door holds the grave of Clay Allison, the "Gentleman Gunfighter,"
5 so called because "he never killed a man who didn't need killing";
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The spring-fed pool at Balmorhea State Park is open
8 year-round, while hunters are drawn to the county by the variety of
9 game, including mule deer, javelina, and upland game birds; Toyah
10 is a popular destination for rockhounds in search of agate, quartz,
11 desert amethyst, and other rare and beautiful minerals; and

12 WHEREAS, Its rugged beauty, rich history, and vibrant
13 agricultural economy make Reeves County a truly unique region of
14 Texas, and the county's residents may indeed take great pride in
15 their heritage and continuing contributions to the Lone Star State;
16 now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
18 Legislature hereby recognize April 15, 2009, as Reeves County Day
19 at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere
20 best wishes for an enjoyable and informative stay in Austin.