

By: Lewis

H.R. No. 1316

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, On April 15, 2009, people from across Winkler County
2 are traveling to the State Capitol to celebrate their county's
3 heritage and to share with fellow Texans their history, traditions,
4 and achievements; and

5 WHEREAS, The Anasazi were the earliest known people in the
6 Winkler County area; in the 1880s, cattlemen established large
7 ranches on free state land and Winkler County was carved out of part
8 of Tom Green County; its name honors Clinton M. Winkler, a member of
9 the state legislature and justice of the Court of Civil Appeals; and

10 WHEREAS, On April 5, 1910, the county was officially
11 organized, and the town of Kermit, named after Theodore Roosevelt's
12 son, was chosen as the county seat; the discovery of oil nearby in
13 1926 brought so many people that many residents lived in tents and
14 makeshift shelters, and a new town, Winkler, also sprang up; when
15 the postal authorities advised that another town in Texas had
16 already claimed that name, it was swiftly shortened to Wink; and

17 WHEREAS, During the early boom years, Wink acquired a
18 reputation as a wild, freewheeling place; now, although its economy
19 is still based on the petroleum industry and ranching, it is perhaps
20 better known as the hometown of music legend Roy Orbison; his first
21 band, the Wink Westerners, made its radio debut on Kermit station
22 KERB, and the Roy Orbison Museum is today one of the town's most
23 interesting attractions; Kermit gained celebrity luster more
24 recently when the Disney company threw a 50th birthday party there

1 for beloved Muppet Kermit the Frog; the town made national
2 headlines as it celebrated in style, renaming a street in honor of
3 the *Sesame Street* star and repainting the water tower with his
4 likeness; and

5 WHEREAS, Winkler County holds a notable place in frontier
6 history, and through the years, its towns have demonstrated a
7 unique West Texas flair; its residents can indeed take pride in this
8 colorful past as they look forward to a bright future; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
11 Legislature hereby recognize April 15, 2009, as Winkler County Day
12 at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere
13 best wishes for an enjoyable and productive visit to Austin.