

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 231

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join the citizens of Brewster County and Texans across the state in celebrating February 17, 2009, as Brewster County Legislative Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, The largest county in Texas, Brewster County is located in the Trans-Pecos region of West Texas and is home to Big Bend National Park, the largest park in the state; and

WHEREAS, The first Europeans to explore the area were members of Spanish expeditions in the 16th century; the rugged, mountainous terrain of the area discouraged settlement until after the Civil War, when the development of the cattle industry and the arrival of the railroads, along with the presence of the United States Army, made the area safe and profitable for settlers; and

WHEREAS, The discovery of mercury in the late 19th century touched off a mining boom in the county, and by 1905, the Chisos Mining Company was supplying 20 percent of the nation's mercury; the burgeoning cattle industry, along with mercury mining, formed the backbone of the area's economy for many years; and

WHEREAS, Today, Brewster County serves as a prime tourist destination, with Big Bend National Park drawing more than 250,000 visitors annually; the World Championship Chili Cookoff in Terlingua brings chili cooks from around the state and nation to participate; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of Brewster County are rightly proud of the county's rich history and its many contributions to our state; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby commend the citizens of Brewster County and extend to the county's delegation a sincere welcome to Austin for Brewster County Legislative Day at the State Capitol; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for them as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 17, 2009.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate