

By: Aliseda

H.R. No. 527

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Many proud residents of Bee County are gathering at
2 the State Capitol to celebrate Bee County Day on March 17, 2011; and

3 WHEREAS, Officially organized on January 25, 1858, Bee County
4 was named for Barnard E. Bee, Sr., a South Carolina attorney,
5 soldier, and statesman who joined the Army of the Republic of Texas
6 and served as secretary of war under Sam Houston; recovered
7 artifacts indicate that the area was originally inhabited 6,000 to
8 10,000 years ago; the first permanent European settlers arrived in
9 the early 19th century, and 11 Bee County landowners were among the
10 signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence; and

11 WHEREAS, Located in the South Texas Plains vegetation region,
12 Bee County covers 866 square miles that slope gently toward the Gulf
13 Coast; with the region's open expanses of grasslands, the local
14 economy is dominated by farming and ranching but also welcomes oil
15 and gas extraction and agribusiness; in 1954, the first U.S. Navy
16 all-jet base opened at the Naval Auxiliary Air Station in Beeville,
17 the county seat, and still contributes a significant amount to the
18 region's economy; other towns in the county include Skidmore, Blue
19 Berry Hill, Pettus, Tuleta, Tynan, Pawnee, Normanna, and Mineral;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Bee County is blessed with an array of cultural and
22 historical attractions for residents and visitors to explore; art
23 enthusiasts may delight in the educational programs and exhibits of
24 the Beeville Art Museum, which is funded by the Joe Barnhart

1 Foundation and housed in the historic Esther Barnhart House; in
2 addition, Beeville has successfully revitalized its downtown
3 district and has been named a Texas Main Street City by the Texas
4 Historical Commission; Coastal Bend College--Beeville offers
5 occupational as well as academic classes for its students and has
6 one of the only public, fully functioning glassblowing facilities
7 in the state; and

8 WHEREAS, The residents of Bee County may take great pride in
9 their heritage and contributions to the Lone Star State, and it is a
10 pleasure to pay tribute to the county and its citizens on this
11 special day; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
13 Legislature hereby recognize March 17, 2011, as Bee County Day at
14 the State Capitol and extend to those visiting today sincere best
15 wishes for an enjoyable stay in Austin.