

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 1120

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Citizens of Loving County are assembling at the  
2 State Capitol on March 31, 2011, to celebrate the importance of  
3 their home to the history of the Lone Star State; and

4           WHEREAS, The geographically smallest county in the Permian  
5 Basin, Loving County lies to the east of the Pecos River in the  
6 Chihuahuan Desert along the Texas-New Mexico border; its 671 square  
7 miles of plains and rolling hills were carved out of Tom Green  
8 County in 1887 and named in honor of Oliver Loving, an early Texas  
9 cattleman; organized in 1893, the county was deorganized by the  
10 state legislature four years later and attached to Reeves County;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, In 1931, Loving County became the only Texas county  
13 to be organized twice; its fortunes had risen with the discovery of  
14 oil in the 1920s and the founding of the town of Ramsey; new  
15 residents came to the community from the nearby settlement of  
16 Porterville and beyond; as the county seat, Ramsey was soon given  
17 the name of Mentone, which originally designated the old, abandoned  
18 county seat 12 miles to the north; the historic Loving County  
19 Courthouse was built in Mentone in 1936; and

20           WHEREAS, Cattle ranching has remained an important part of  
21 the county's economy since the 1800s, but oil and gas production are  
22 the primary industry; Mentone, the only town, serves as a supply  
23 center for neighboring oil fields; its population of about a dozen  
24 is roughly the same as when the county was first founded, and Loving

1 County, with 82 people, ranks as the least populated in the nation;  
2 the wide-open spaces of Western songs are no mere memory here, and  
3 the abundant wildlife includes quail, deer, javelinas, bobcats,  
4 coyotes, and armadillos; and

5 WHEREAS, Loving County retains the rugged beauty and ranching  
6 traditions of our state's pioneer days, and its residents can  
7 indeed take pride in the uniqueness of their county and its  
8 heritage; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
10 Legislature hereby recognize March 31, 2011, as Loving County Day  
11 at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere  
12 best wishes for a meaningful and memorable stay in Austin.