

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 1121

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The celebration of Ward County Day at the State
2 Capitol on March 31, 2011, provides a fitting opportunity to
3 recognize its fascinating place in the annals of Texas; and

4 WHEREAS, Once roamed by the Jumano and Comanche people, Ward
5 County is located along the southwestern edge of the High Plains;
6 Spanish explorers Antonio de Espejo and Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca
7 left journals describing their travels through the area in the
8 1580s, but it was some three centuries before large-scale
9 settlement arrived with the advent of the Texas and Pacific
10 Railway; and

11 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature carved out territory from Tom
12 Green County and organized it as Ward County in 1892, naming it
13 after Thomas William "Peg Leg" Ward, an Irishman who served as a
14 colonel in the Republic of Texas Army and whose myriad roles in the
15 state's early history included service as chief clerk for the House
16 of Representatives in 1839; the red sandstone Ward County
17 Courthouse was built in 1893 in Barstow, the original county seat,
18 and the town's residents numbered nearly 1,500 by the turn of the
19 century; and

20 WHEREAS, Until the early 20th century, the economy revolved
21 around ranching; irrigation projects on the Pecos River allowed the
22 planting of numerous vineyards and orchards, but a dam failure and
23 drought conditions plagued farmers; nevertheless, cotton
24 production expanded and covered more than 10,000 acres by 1920; the

1 opening of the Henrick oilfield in 1926 ushered in a period of great
2 prosperity, and during the boom, Monahans became the economic
3 center and county seat; the county's population reached about 9,500
4 people by 1940; and

5 WHEREAS, Through the opening of the magnificent Monahans
6 Sandhills State Historic Park in 1957, Ward County gained tourism
7 as another cornerstone of its economy; present-day attractions also
8 include the Million Barrel Museum and the Rattlesnake Bomber Base
9 Museum, as well as events such as the annual Butterfield-Overland
10 Stagecoach and Wagon Festival; and

11 WHEREAS, Those who call Ward County home can take justifiable
12 pride in a county as colorful and many-faceted as its heroic
13 namesake, and it is indeed a pleasure to welcome these citizens to
14 Austin on this special day; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
16 Legislature hereby recognize March 31, 2011, as Ward County Day at
17 the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere
18 best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable stay.