

By: Lewis

H.R. No. 520

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, On February 21, 2013, proud citizens of two historic  
2 West Texas counties are gathering in Austin to celebrate Ward and  
3 Winkler Counties Day at the State Capitol; and

4           WHEREAS, The territory of Ward County was originally home to  
5 the Apache and Comanche Indians, and in 1881, the Texas and Pacific  
6 Railway built a line through the region, with stations at Barstow  
7 and Monahans; the county was created out of part of Tom Green County  
8 in 1887 and named for Thomas "Peg Leg" Ward, a soldier in the Texas  
9 Revolution who lost his leg to a cannonball; a center for ranching  
10 and farming in its early years, the county was transformed by the  
11 discovery of oil and gas in the 1920s; during World War II, it was  
12 the site of Pyote Army Air Field, and in 1957, the Monahans  
13 Sandhills State Historic Park was created in the county's northeast  
14 corner; and

15           WHEREAS, Monahans, the county seat, was founded in 1880 by an  
16 Irishman named John Thomas Monahan, an employee of the Texas and  
17 Pacific who found water at the site, and it was incorporated in  
18 1928; situated at the hub of the Permian Basin, the town boasts a  
19 welcoming business environment facilitated by easy access to two  
20 railroads and two interstate highways; today, the area is stronger  
21 and busier than ever, with a sharp increase in oil drilling and a  
22 strong commitment by city and county officials to upgrade the  
23 county's infrastructure and accommodate the growing need for  
24 housing, industry, and retail; and

1           WHEREAS, The Anasazi were the earliest known people in the  
2 Winkler County area; in the 1880s, cattlemen established large  
3 ranches on free state land; Winkler County was carved out of Tom  
4 Green County and named after Clinton W. Winkler, a state legislator  
5 and judge; in 1910, the county was officially organized and the town  
6 of Kermit, named after Theodore Roosevelt's son, was chosen as  
7 county seat; the oil boom of the 1920s brought so many new people  
8 that residents lived in tents and makeshift shelters, and another  
9 town, Winkler, sprang up; when the postal authorities advised that  
10 there was another town with that name, it was swiftly shortened to  
11 Wink; and

12           WHEREAS, During the early boom years, Wink acquired a wild  
13 and freewheeling reputation; now, although its economy is still  
14 based on the petroleum industry and ranching, it is better known as  
15 the hometown of music legend Roy Orbison; his first band, the Wink  
16 Westerners, made its radio debut on Kermit station KERB, and the Roy  
17 Orbison Museum is today one of the town's most interesting  
18 attractions; Kermit gained celebrity luster more recently when the  
19 Disney Company threw a 50th birthday party for Kermit the Frog, and  
20 the town made national headlines as it celebrated in style,  
21 renaming a street in honor of the Muppet and repainting the water  
22 tower with his likeness; and

23           WHEREAS, These two storied counties hold a notable place in  
24 frontier history, and through the years, their towns have  
25 demonstrated a unique High Plains flair; the residents of both  
26 counties can indeed take great pride in their colorful past as they  
27 look forward to a bright future; now, therefore, be it

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1           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
2 Legislature hereby recognize February 21, 2013, as Ward and Winkler  
3 Counties Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting  
4 delegations sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable  
5 visit to Austin.