

By: King of Zavala

H.R. No. 1300

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Crystal City are gathering in
2 Austin on April 10, 2013, to celebrate Crystal City Day at the State
3 Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Situated in the Winter Garden Region of South Texas,
5 Crystal City was laid out in 1905 by two developers, Carl F. Groos
6 and E. J. Buckingham, and named for the clear waters of a nearby
7 artesian well; by 1908, the town had a post office, a school, and a
8 stop on the Uvalde Railway, and in 1928, it was named the seat of
9 Zavala County; and

10 WHEREAS, From its earliest days, Crystal City was a shipping
11 point for winter vegetables such as onions, carrots, tomatoes, and
12 peppers; a vegetable cannery was opened in 1932, and the town became
13 known as the Spinach Capital of the World; the first spinach
14 festival was held in 1936 and ran each year until World War II; in
15 1937, the town erected a statue of Popeye, the spinach-loving
16 cartoon character, across the street from city hall; and

17 WHEREAS, During World War II, the Immigration and
18 Naturalization Service took over a camp for migratory farm workers
19 at Crystal City and used the facility to intern Japanese Americans
20 and Axis nationals, many of whom had been residing in various South
21 American countries; at its peak, the camp held more than 3,300 men,
22 women, and children speaking five different languages; the camp was
23 converted to low-cost housing after the war; and

24 WHEREAS, The rising power of Crystal City's majority Hispanic

1 population in the 1960s helped increase their representation in
2 city government; in 1967, three Chicano students at Crystal City
3 High School founded the Mexican American Youth Organization,
4 leading three years later to the founding of the Raza Unida Party,
5 which fielded Hispanic candidates for statewide office; and

6 WHEREAS, Today, Crystal City continues to be a hub for
7 farming, ranching, and food processing, with the Del Monte
8 Corporation cannery specializing in locally produced spinach and
9 carrots; revived in 1982, the Spinach Festival draws 60,000
10 visitors to the town every November with such activities as a
11 cook-off, a carnival and parade, and musical performances; and

12 WHEREAS, The citizens of Crystal City are working to preserve
13 the best of their past while building a future of ever-expanding
14 opportunity, and it is indeed a privilege to recognize their
15 industry and public spirit; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
17 Legislature hereby recognize April 10, 2013, as Crystal City Day at
18 the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere
19 best wishes for a meaningful and memorable stay in Austin.