

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 615

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

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

WHEREAS, From its earliest days, Crystal City was a shipping point for winter vegetables such as onions, carrots, tomatoes, and peppers, and a vegetable cannery was opened in the town in 1932; the first spinach festival was held there in 1936 and ran each year until World War II; in 1937, the town erected a statue of Popeye, the spinach-loving cartoon character, across the street from city hall, and it was during this time that the town became the self-proclaimed Spinach Capital of the World; and

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

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

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

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

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

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 10, 2013.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate