

By: Darby

H.R. No. 308

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Citizens from Howard County are gathering in Austin  
2 to celebrate Howard County Day at the State Capitol on February 10,  
3 2015; and

4           WHEREAS, Nestled between the Caprock escarpment and the  
5 Edwards Plateau, this region of the West Texas High Plains is home  
6 to the "big spring" in Sulphur Draw; the nearby town of Big Spring  
7 began as a settlement of buffalo hunters in the 1870s; and

8           WHEREAS, Howard County was organized in 1882, with Big Spring  
9 as the county seat; situated on the Texas and Pacific Railway, the  
10 town also became an important shipping point for livestock and  
11 produce; the community of Coahoma developed as a trading center  
12 with the arrival of the railroad in the early 1880s, while Forsan  
13 was established at the height of the county's oil boom in the 1920s;  
14 during World War II, Howard County became the site of the Big Spring  
15 Army Air Corps Bombardier School, which trained more than 5,000  
16 men; and

17           WHEREAS, Today, Howard County thrives as a center for oil and  
18 gas production, farming and ranching, transportation, and  
19 manufacturing, and the county looks to the future of energy  
20 production with its wind turbine farms; the McMahon-Wrinkle Airport  
21 further contributes to the area's economy, and the ongoing  
22 development of the city's downtown historic district is  
23 revitalizing the entire community; and

24           WHEREAS, A regional hub for health care, Big Spring is home to

1 a veterans hospital, a state mental health facility, and a  
2 rehabilitation center, and it is the location of Howard College and  
3 the Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf; and

4 WHEREAS, Visitors and residents alike enjoy fine  
5 opportunities for recreation at Big Spring State Park, Moss Lake,  
6 and Comanche Trail Park, where the annual Festival of Lights is  
7 held; the region's colorful past is celebrated at the Heritage  
8 Museum and the Hangar 25 Air Museum; the town also plays host to the  
9 Annual Big Spring Cowboy Reunion and Rodeo; and

10 WHEREAS, Deeply devoted to their communities and to the land  
11 that has shaped them, the people of Howard County may take  
12 justifiable pride in all that they have accomplished over the  
13 years, knowing that the robust spirit of earlier generations is  
14 alive and well in their own; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
16 Legislature hereby recognize February 10, 2015, as Howard County  
17 Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation  
18 sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable stay in Austin.