

By: Nevárez

H.R. No. 364

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Loving County are gathering in
2 Austin to celebrate Loving County Day at the State Capitol; and

3 WHEREAS, The geographically smallest county in the Permian
4 Basin, Loving County lies to the east of the Pecos River in the
5 Chihuahuan Desert along the Texas-New Mexico border; its 674 square
6 miles of desert, low rolling hills, playas, and dry draws were
7 carved out of Tom Green County in 1887 and named in honor of Oliver
8 Loving, an early Texas cattleman; privately organized by
9 out-of-state businessmen in 1893, the county was officially
10 attached to Reeves County by the state legislature four years
11 later; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1931, Loving County was reorganized, becoming the
13 only Texas county to be organized twice and the last to be
14 established; its fortunes had risen with the discovery of oil in the
15 1920s and the founding of the town of Ramsey; new residents came to
16 the community from the nearby settlement of Porterville and beyond;
17 as the county seat, Ramsey was soon given the name of Mentone, which
18 originally designated the old, abandoned county seat 12 miles to
19 the north; the historic Loving County Courthouse was built in
20 Mentone in 1935; and

21 WHEREAS, Cattle ranching has remained an important part of
22 the local economy since the 1800s, but oil and gas production, the
23 primary industry, has become even more dominant in recent years;
24 while Loving County has long ranked as the most rural county in the

1 nation--and with 95 citizens now living there, is among the least
2 populous--the number of residents has grown with the energy boom,
3 and more people come during the day to work in the oil fields;
4 still, the wide-open spaces of Western songs are no mere memory
5 here, and the abundant wildlife includes quail, deer, javelinas,
6 bobcats, coyotes, and armadillos; and

7 WHEREAS, Citizens may take great pride in the rugged beauty
8 and rich traditions of Loving County as they look forward to the
9 myriad challenges and opportunities of the future; now, therefore,
10 be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
12 Legislature hereby recognize Loving County Day at the State Capitol
13 and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best wishes for an
14 informative and enjoyable stay in Austin.