

R E S O L U T I O N

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

4           WHEREAS, This austerely beautiful region of canyons and  
5 windswept plateaus is home to the Davis Mountains, which were first  
6 inhabited by prehistoric peoples more than a thousand years ago;  
7 the region was later home to the Mescalero Apaches, and the first  
8 Spanish explorer, Antonio de Espejo, visited Limpia Canyon in 1583;  
9 and

10           WHEREAS, In 1849, the U.S. Army opened a wagon road from San  
11 Antonio to El Paso through the mountains, and in 1854, the army  
12 established a fort on the former site of an Indian village, naming  
13 it after Jefferson Davis, the secretary of war, and later the  
14 president of the Confederacy; Fort Davis changed hands during the  
15 Civil War, and the U.S. Army reoccupied it in 1867; ranchers moved  
16 into the area in the 1880s, and Jeff Davis County was organized in  
17 1887 with Fort Davis as the county seat; the military post was  
18 abandoned in 1891; and

19           WHEREAS, Today, ranching and tourism continue to be the  
20 mainstays of the county's economy; the county seat is home to the  
21 Fort Davis National Historic Site, which preserves the history and  
22 heritage of the frontier cavalry fort; the nearby Chihuahuan Desert  
23 Nature Center features 507 acres of rolling grassland and  
24 oak-covered hills, as well as a desert botanical garden and a

1 greenhouse; visitors are also drawn by the fine opportunities for  
2 camping, birding, hiking, and horseback riding in Davis Mountains  
3 State Park, and by the 74-mile scenic highway that winds through the  
4 mountains; and

5         WHEREAS, The county is home to the McDonald Observatory of  
6 The University of Texas at Austin and its Hobby-Eberly telescope,  
7 one of the largest optical telescopes in the world; the  
8 observatory's excellent visitors center offers tours and student  
9 activities, as well as star parties several nights each week, where  
10 the public can marvel at some of the darkest night skies in the  
11 continental United States; and

12         WHEREAS, Each August, the Bloys Cowboy Camp revival meeting  
13 is held in Skillman's Grove, and also in August, the Fort Davis  
14 Chamber of Commerce hosts an annual hummingbird festival in the  
15 Davis Mountains; in Fort Davis itself, citizens reenact an old  
16 Western bank robbery every Fourth of July; and

17         WHEREAS, Blessed with the opportunity to live in a striking  
18 landscape with a rich history, the resilient and independent-minded  
19 citizens of Jeff Davis County may indeed take great pride in the  
20 unique role their county plays in both the past and the future of  
21 the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

22         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
23 Legislature hereby recognize Jeff Davis County Day at the State  
24 Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best wishes  
25 for a memorable and meaningful visit to Austin.

Nevárez

H.R. No. 372

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 372 was adopted by the House on  
February 17, 2015, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House