

By: Nevárez

H.R. No. 372

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.