

By: Nevárez

H.R. No. 559

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Val Clark Beard retired as county
2 judge of Brewster County in January 2014, drawing to a close an
3 exceptional tenure of 20 years in that office; and

4 WHEREAS, After earning both her bachelor's degree and her
5 J.D. from The University of Texas at Austin, Judge Beard moved to
6 Brewster County in 1973 with her husband, Tom, to operate the Beard
7 family ranch, Leoncita, and to open a law practice, Beard & Beard;
8 in 1983, she was named to fill an unexpired term as county attorney,
9 and she went on to serve for eight years in that office; and

10 WHEREAS, Appointed Brewster County judge in 1993, Judge Beard
11 was subsequently elected to five consecutive terms; her duties
12 included various judicial responsibilities, and she never had a
13 decision reversed during her 20 years on the court; as the highest
14 elected county official, Judge Beard was also responsible for
15 preparing the county budget and for overseeing county finances,
16 emergency management, and the day-to-day operations of county
17 government; and

18 WHEREAS, Under Judge Beard's leadership, the commissioners
19 court took a number of significant actions to improve public
20 services and to develop the county's infrastructure; the court
21 built three fire stations, a jail, offices for law enforcement
22 personnel, and a community center, and it also preserved three
23 historic public buildings by renovating them for use as county
24 office space; in addition, the court created a groundwater district

1 to protect scarce water resources, an emergency services district
2 to serve the southern part of the county, and a county tourism
3 council to administer the hotel/motel tax; and

4 WHEREAS, Judge Beard has played a vital role in many other
5 positions of leadership as well, serving as president of the Rio
6 Grande Council of Governments, as chair of the area's Tri County
7 Juvenile Board, and as a member of the Texas Border Security
8 Council, to name but a few of the posts she has held; in February
9 2014, Governor Rick Perry appointed her to lead the Rio Grande
10 Regional Review Committee; and

11 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan and her husband take pride in a
12 family that includes their daughter, Mary Beard Duncan, son-in-law,
13 Mike Duncan, and grandson, Tad Duncan; with greater leisure now at
14 her command, Judge Beard is enjoying spending more time with her
15 loved ones and working on her ranch and in her garden and
16 greenhouse; and

17 WHEREAS, Val Clark Beard has made many significant
18 contributions to the betterment of life in Brewster County over the
19 course of her career as a public servant, and she may take
20 justifiable pride in her exemplary record of achievement; now,
21 therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
23 Legislature hereby congratulate the Honorable Val Clark Beard on
24 her retirement as Brewster County judge and extend to her sincere
25 best wishes for the future; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for Judge Beard as an expression of high regard by the

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1 Texas House of Representatives.