

By: King of Uvalde

H.R. No. 921

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Crystal City are gathering in
2 Austin on March 18, 2015, to celebrate Crystal City Day at the State
3 Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Situated in the Winter Garden Region of South Texas,
5 Crystal City was laid out in 1905 by two developers, Carl F. Groos
6 and E. J. Buckingham, and named for the clear waters of a nearby
7 artesian well; by 1908, the town had a post office, a school, and a
8 stop on the Uvalde Railway, and in 1928, it was named the seat of
9 Zavala County; and

10 WHEREAS, From its earliest days, Crystal City was a shipping
11 point for winter vegetables such as onions, carrots, tomatoes, and
12 peppers; a vegetable cannery was opened in 1932, and the town became
13 known as the Spinach Capital of the World; the first spinach
14 festival was held in 1936 and ran each year until World War II; in
15 1937, the town erected a statue of Popeye, the spinach-loving
16 cartoon character, across the street from city hall; and

17 WHEREAS, During World War II, the Immigration and
18 Naturalization Service took over a camp for migratory farm workers
19 at Crystal City and used the facility to intern Japanese Americans
20 and Axis nationals, many of whom had been residing in various South
21 American countries; at its peak, the camp held more than 3,300 men,
22 women, and children speaking five different languages; the camp was
23 converted to low-cost housing after the war; and

24 WHEREAS, The rising power of Crystal City's majority Hispanic

1 population in the 1960s helped increase their representation in
2 city government; in 1967, three Chicano students at Crystal City
3 High School founded the Mexican American Youth Organization,
4 leading three years later to the founding of the Raza Unida Party;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Today, Crystal City continues to be a hub for
7 farming, ranching, and food processing, with the Del Monte
8 Corporation cannery specializing in locally produced spinach and
9 carrots, and the Spinach Festival, which was revived in 1982, draws
10 visitors from around the country with such activities as a
11 cook-off, a carnival and parade, and musical performances; and

12 WHEREAS, The mayor and city council members are together
13 leading efforts for infrastructure renewal, and recent successful
14 initiatives include road, water, and lighting upgrades; the town
15 has also made improvements at its popular Juan Garcia Park, adding a
16 ranch rodeo arena, a swimming pool complex, new basketball courts,
17 and wheelchair-accessible restrooms; and

18 WHEREAS, The citizens of Crystal City are working to preserve
19 the best of their past while building a future of ever-expanding
20 opportunity, and it is indeed most fitting to honor them for their
21 industry and public spirit; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
23 Legislature hereby recognize March 18, 2015, as Crystal City Day at
24 the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere
25 best wishes for an enjoyable stay in Austin.