

By: Landgraf

H.R. No. 1343

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, On March 25, 2015, proud citizens of two historic
2 West Texas counties are gathering in Austin to celebrate Ward and
3 Winkler Counties Day at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, The territory of Ward County was originally home to
5 the Apache and Comanche Indians, and in 1881, the Texas and Pacific
6 Railway built a line through the region, with stations at Barstow
7 and Monahans; the county was created out of part of Tom Green County
8 in 1887 and named for Thomas "Peg Leg" Ward, a soldier in the Texas
9 Revolution who lost his leg to a cannonball; a center for ranching
10 and farming in its early years, the county was transformed by the
11 discovery of oil and gas in the 1920s; during World War II, it was
12 the site of Pyote Army Air Field, and in 1957, the Monahans
13 Sandhills State Historic Park was created in the county's northeast
14 corner; and

15 WHEREAS, Monahans, the Ward County seat, was founded in 1880
16 by an Irishman named John Thomas Monahan, an employee of the Texas
17 and Pacific who found water at the site, and it was incorporated in
18 1928; situated at the hub of the Permian Basin, the town boasts a
19 welcoming business environment facilitated by easy access to two
20 railroads and two interstate highways; today, the area is stronger
21 and busier than ever, with a sharp increase in oil drilling and a
22 strong commitment by city and county officials to upgrade the
23 county's infrastructure and accommodate the growing need for
24 housing, industry, and retail; and

1 WHEREAS, The Anasazi were the earliest known people in the
2 Winkler County area, and then in the 1880s, cattlemen established
3 large ranches on free state land; Winkler County was carved out of
4 Tom Green County and named after Clinton W. Winkler, a state
5 legislator and judge; in 1910, the county was officially organized
6 and the town of Kermit, named after Theodore Roosevelt's son, was
7 chosen as county seat; the oil boom of the 1920s brought so many
8 people that residents lived in tents and makeshift shelters, and a
9 new town, Winkler, sprang up; when the postal authorities advised
10 that there was another town with that name, it was swiftly shortened
11 to Wink; and

12 WHEREAS, During the early boom years, Wink acquired a wild
13 and freewheeling reputation; now, although its economy is still
14 based on the petroleum industry and ranching, it is better known as
15 the hometown of music legend Roy Orbison; his first band, the Wink
16 Westerners, made its radio debut on Kermit station KERB, and the Roy
17 Orbison Museum is today one of the town's interesting attractions;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, These two storied counties hold a notable place in
20 frontier history, and through the years, their towns have
21 demonstrated a unique High Plains flair; the residents of both
22 counties can indeed take great pride in their colorful past as they
23 look forward to a bright future; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
25 Legislature hereby recognize March 25, 2015, as Ward and Winkler
26 Counties Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting
27 delegations sincere best wishes for an informative and enjoyable

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1 visit to Austin.