

1-1 By: Rodríguez S.C.R. No. 33
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 13, 2015; March 23, 2015, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Administration; March 25,
1-4 2015, rereferred to Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military
1-5 Installations; April 20, 2015, reported favorably by the following
1-6 vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; April 20, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-8	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9	Campbell	X		
1-10	Burton	X		
1-11	Birdwell	X		
1-12	Garcia	X		
1-13	Hall	X		
1-14	Lucio	X		
1-15	Rodríguez	X		

1-16 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-17 WHEREAS, On September 8, 1849, Major Jefferson Van Horne and
1-18 a contingent of United States Army troops arrived in the vicinity of
1-19 present-day El Paso to establish a post on the Rio Grande, the first
1-20 American military encampment in an area that has hosted United
1-21 States armed forces now for more than a century and a half; and

1-22 WHEREAS, A native of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Jefferson
1-23 Van Horne was born to Dorothy Johns Marple Van Horne and General
1-24 Isaac Van Horne, a veteran of the American Revolution; following
1-25 the family tradition of military service, he graduated from the
1-26 United States Military Academy at West Point in 1827 and upheld its
1-27 motto of "Duty, Honor, Country" throughout his life; and

1-28 WHEREAS, His early assignments included frontier duty at
1-29 Jefferson Barracks in Missouri and a tour at Fort Smith, Arkansas;
1-30 from 1846 to 1848, he served his country in the Mexican War, and his
1-31 distinguished efforts earned him promotion to the rank of major;
1-32 and

1-33 WHEREAS, While on leave in his hometown of Zanesville, Ohio,
1-34 Jefferson Van Horne met Mary Gilbert, and after exchanging romantic
1-35 letters for two years, the couple were married on November 28, 1850;
1-36 they had one son, Lewis Cass Van Horne; and

1-37 WHEREAS, In May 1849, Major Van Horne was instructed to
1-38 establish a military post on the north bank of the Rio Grande,
1-39 opposite what is now Ciudad Juarez, for the purpose of protecting
1-40 both settlers in the area and travelers bound for California from
1-41 Indian attack; he departed Camp Salado, on the outskirts of San
1-42 Antonio, on June 1, commanding regimental staff, six companies of
1-43 the Third Infantry, and a howitzer battery; his party of nearly 260
1-44 soldiers was accompanied by some 100 civilians who played a
1-45 supporting role; and

1-46 WHEREAS, With 275 wagons, the expedition represented the
1-47 longest wagon train to embark westward across Texas; after 100 days
1-48 and a 643-mile overland march, Major Van Horne and his men reached
1-49 their destination on September 8, 1849; Major Van Horne
1-50 subsequently quartered four companies at Coon's Rancho, where
1-51 downtown El Paso now stands, and sent two companies to garrison the
1-52 old Spanish presidio at San Elizario, 20 miles to the southeast; and

1-53 WHEREAS, In September 1851, the War Department closed both
1-54 the post at Coon's Rancho and the presidio and ordered Major Van
1-55 Horne and most of his troops to Fort Fillmore, 40 miles north of El
1-56 Paso, near Mesilla, New Mexico; Major Van Horne had recruiting duty
1-57 from 1852 to 1854, and between 1855 and 1857 he served at Fort
1-58 Stanton, New Mexico, and at the Post of Albuquerque; he died in
1-59 Albuquerque on September 26, 1857; and

1-60 WHEREAS, A new army post was established on the site of
1-61 present-day El Paso in January 1854, and in March of that year it

2-1 was named Fort Bliss after Lieutenant Colonel William Bliss, a
2-2 career army officer and an accomplished scholar who was also the
2-3 son-in-law of President Zachary Taylor; the fort acquired a
2-4 permanent location in El Paso in 1893; and

2-5 WHEREAS, The post that Major Jefferson Van Horne established
2-6 at the site of present-day El Paso served to protect a vital route
2-7 for a dynamic and burgeoning nation pushing westward and marked the
2-8 beginning of a long and close association between the United States
2-9 military and the people of El Paso, and it is indeed fitting that
2-10 the anniversary of his arrival at the Pass of the North be
2-11 commemorated; now, therefore, be it

2-12 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
2-13 hereby designate September 8 as Major Jefferson Van Horne Day in the
2-14 State of Texas; and, be it further

2-15 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
2-16 391.004(d), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
2-17 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
2-18 passed by the legislature.

2-19 * * * * *