

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 424**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby recognize March 25, 2015, as Ward and Winkler Counties Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegations sincere best wishes for an informative and enjoyable visit to Austin.

Perry, Seliger

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 25, 2015.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate

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Member, Texas Senate