

By: Landgraf

H.R. No. 655

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud citizens of Ward County are gathering in
2 Austin on February 28, 2017, to celebrate Ward County Day at the
3 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; and

19 WHEREAS, Situated at the hub of the Permian Basin, the town
20 boasts a welcoming business environment facilitated by easy access
21 to two railroads and two interstate highways; today, the area is
22 stronger and busier than ever, with a commitment by city and county
23 officials to upgrade the county's infrastructure and accommodate
24 the growing need for housing, industry, and retail; and

1 WHEREAS, Even as they celebrate their rich heritage, the
2 hardworking people of Ward County are looking ahead to the
3 opportunities of the future, and they may reflect with pride on
4 their contributions to the story of the Lone Star State; now,
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
7 Legislature hereby recognize February 28, 2017, as Ward County Day
8 at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere
9 best wishes for an informative and enjoyable stay in Austin.