

By: Nevárez

H.R. No. 692

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Presidio County are visiting
2 Austin on March 1, 2017, to celebrate Presidio County Day at the
3 State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, An area steeped in history and possessed of a
5 frontier mystique, Presidio County lies in the Trans-Pecos region
6 of Southwest Texas and is bordered by the Rio Grande and Mexico; its
7 desert terrain varies from rolling plains to canyons and volcanic
8 cliffs and rises to some of the state's tallest mountain ranges, as
9 well as to its highest waterfall, Capote Falls, with a drop of 175
10 feet; and

11 WHEREAS, Presidio County was established from parts of the
12 Bexar Land District on January 3, 1850, and organized a
13 quarter-century later; initially the largest county in the United
14 States at 12,000 square miles, it eventually relinquished land and
15 today holds the claim of fourth-largest county in the state at
16 nearly 3,860 square miles; its original county seat was Fort Davis,
17 which became part of Jeff Davis County, and the Presidio County
18 government relocated to Marfa two years after the town's founding
19 in 1883; and

20 WHEREAS, From the 1880s to the 1940s, silver mining was a
21 leading industry in Presidio County after a silver deposit was
22 found in the Chinati Mountains by local rancher and trader John W.
23 Spencer; his discovery led to the opening of Presidio Mine, which
24 would produce more than 32.6 million ounces of silver over the

1 course of its existence; and

2 WHEREAS, Today, the local economy is based primarily on
3 agriculture; in the southern portion of the county, the loamy soil
4 provides fertile ground for growing tomatoes, melons, onions,
5 grain, and cotton, while ranchers have traditionally raised sheep
6 and cattle, including the famed Highland Hereford, wherever there
7 is adequate pastureland; although no permanent streams exist in the
8 county, the completion of Elephant Butte Dam across the Rio Grande
9 in 1910 created a reliable supply of irrigation water, greatly
10 increasing farming production; and

11 WHEREAS, Presidio, with a population of nearly 4,000, is the
12 county's largest town and home to the Fort Leaton historic site, a
13 public museum containing ruins, exhibits, and nature trails; the
14 county seat of Marfa has some 1,700 people and boasts historical
15 attractions as well as an active local arts scene, including the
16 world-renowned Chinati Foundation; the town has become a popular
17 tourist draw for its vintage charm and art and for the mysterious
18 Marfa Lights, an atmospheric phenomenon first observed in the night
19 sky in 1883; and

20 WHEREAS, With its friendly people, majestic scenery, and
21 sundry intangible qualities, Presidio County is truly a treasure of
22 the Lone Star State, and it is indeed a pleasure to celebrate the
23 heritage and contributions of this storied region; now, therefore,
24 be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
26 Legislature hereby recognize March 1, 2017, as Presidio County Day
27 at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere

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1 best wishes for an informative and enjoyable stay in Austin.