

By: Nevárez

H.R. No. 814

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Faculty, students, staff, and alumni are
2 celebrating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Sul Ross
3 State University in April 2017; and

4 WHEREAS, On April 4, 1917, Governor James E. Ferguson signed
5 a bill of the 35th Texas Legislature that established a teaching
6 college in the Big Bend region of West Texas; the new school was
7 named for Lawrence Sullivan Ross, who served as governor of Texas
8 from 1887 to 1891 and as president of what is now Texas A&M
9 University from 1891 to 1898; and

10 WHEREAS, Sul Ross Normal College began operations on June 14,
11 1920, in Alpine, where the residents provided the land, water, and
12 utilities for the college, as well as housing for its earliest
13 students; with the opening of the Museum of the Big Bend in the
14 1930s, the institution quickly became a cultural and educational
15 center for the region; in 1948, it served as the birthplace of the
16 National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association; and

17 WHEREAS, Sul Ross attained university status in 1969, and in
18 1985, it joined with Southwest Texas Junior College to establish
19 upper-level and graduate study centers in Del Rio, Uvalde, and
20 Eagle Pass; another center was opened in Castroville in 2015; and

21 WHEREAS, Today, SRSU is a well-respected regional
22 comprehensive university that boasts an average enrollment of 2,000
23 students and offers 25 undergraduate and 22 graduate degree
24 programs; blessed with a learning environment that includes such

1 resources as Big Bend National Park, Fort Davis State Park, the Rio
2 Grande, and the Guadalupe Mountains, it is among the most
3 affordable public universities in Texas, and its gifted faculty
4 have made significant contributions in such disciplines as natural
5 resource management, history, theater, biology, and geology; and

6 WHEREAS, Among the school's 29,000 graduates to date are such
7 notable alumni as baseball great Norm Cash, of the Detroit Tigers;
8 the actor Dan Blocker, a star of the television classic *Bonanza*;
9 Olympic volleyball athlete Marilyn Nolen; and former Texas state
10 representative and U.S. congressman Pete Gallego; and

11 WHEREAS, For 100 years, this dynamic university has helped
12 thousands of Texans to achieve prosperous careers and fulfilling
13 lives by empowering them to take on the challenges and
14 opportunities that await them; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
16 Legislature hereby recognize April 4, 2017, as Sul Ross State
17 University Day at the State Capitol and extend to all those
18 associated with the school sincere best wishes for a memorable and
19 meaningful centennial celebration; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for Sul Ross State University as an expression of high
22 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.