

By: Nevárez

H.R. No. 1382

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Val Verde County are gathering in
2 Austin on April 12, 2017, to celebrate Val Verde County Day at the
3 State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, The brushlands along the Rio Grande were first
5 inhabited more than 6,000 years ago by native peoples whose cave
6 paintings are still visible; the Spanish arrived in the 1590s,
7 encountering the Lipan Apaches and the Comanches, and in the 1850s
8 and after the Civil War, a series of military camps were set up in
9 the area; and

10 WHEREAS, The community of San Felipe Del Rio was founded in
11 1868, and Val Verde County was organized in 1885; that same year,
12 the colorful Judge Roy Bean was elected justice of the peace in
13 Langtry, where he became known as "the Law West of the Pecos,"
14 making his distinctive rulings from the Jersey Lilly Saloon; and

15 WHEREAS, County seat Del Rio today is a cultural center for
16 the area; it is home to campuses of Southwest Texas Junior College
17 and Sul Ross State University, as well as to the Upstagers Community
18 Theatre, which presents several productions each year; and

19 WHEREAS, Since its earliest days, Val Verde County has been a
20 center for sheep and goat ranching, and the wool and mohair
21 industries continue to be central to its economy; other important
22 employers include Laughlin Air Force Base, the U.S. Border Patrol,
23 and the National Park Service; and

24 WHEREAS, Tourism and trade with Mexico are also part of the

1 life of the county; opportunities for boating, fishing, birding,
2 and hiking are afforded by the Amistad National Recreation Area,
3 and the Whitehead Memorial Museum in Del Rio and the Judge Roy Bean
4 Visitor Center in Langtry attract visitors interested in the
5 heritage of the county's frontier days; and

6 WHEREAS, Celebrating their rich history as they work to build
7 an even brighter future, the people of Val Verde County may take
8 great pride in the important role their unique region continues to
9 play in the story of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
11 Legislature hereby recognize April 12, 2017, as Val Verde County
12 Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation
13 sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable stay in Austin.