

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 192**

**WHEREAS**, Proud residents of Bee County are gathering at the State Capitol to celebrate Bee County Day on February 14, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, Artifacts indicate that the Bee County region was originally inhabited 6,000 to 10,000 years ago; the first permanent European settlers arrived in the early 19th century, and 11 area landowners were among the signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence; and

**WHEREAS**, Bee County was officially organized on January 25, 1858, and was named for Barnard E. Bee Sr., a South Carolina attorney, soldier, and statesman who joined the army of the Republic of Texas and later served as secretary of war under Sam Houston; and

**WHEREAS**, Located in the South Texas Plains vegetation region, the county covers 866 square miles that slope gently toward the Gulf Coast; with the region's open expanses of grasslands, its economy is dominated by farming and ranching, along with oil and gas operations and agribusiness; Beeville is the county seat, and other towns in the county include Skidmore, Blue Berry Hill, Pettus, Tuleta, Tynan, Pawnee, Normanna, and Mineral; and

**WHEREAS**, Bee County is blessed with an array of cultural and historical attractions for residents and visitors to explore; Beeville has successfully revitalized its downtown district and has been named a Texas Main Street City by the Texas Historical Commission; Coastal Bend College--Beeville offers occupational and academic classes for its students, and it has

the oldest academic educational glassblowing facility in the state; art enthusiasts may delight in the exhibits of the Beeville Art Museum, which is funded by the Joe Barnhart Foundation and housed in the historic Esther Barnhart House; in addition, visitors gather from all across Texas to celebrate the state's rich traditions at Western Week, one of the county's largest and longest-running festivals; and

**WHEREAS,** The citizens of Bee County may indeed take great pride in their vibrant heritage as they work together to build an even brighter future, and this special day provides a welcome opportunity to pay tribute to the county and its people; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby recognize February 14, 2017, as Bee County Day at the State Capitol and extend to those visiting today sincere best wishes for an enjoyable stay in Austin.

Zaffirini

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 14, 2017.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate