86R7220 KSM-D

By:  Lozano H.R. No. 79

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Residents of Jim Wells County are assembling at the State Capitol on February 19, 2019, to celebrate the importance of their home to the history of the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, A landscape of sweeping grasslands and wide horizons, the county's early inhabitants enjoyed the region's mild winters and abundant game; after the first European settlement in 1754, at Penitas Creek, Mexican ranchers developed land grants into sheep and cattle ranches; in 1848 the region became part of the State of Texas, and it was formally incorporated as a county in 1911 and named after the prominent developer and attorney James B. Wells Jr.; and

WHEREAS, With the arrival of the railroad in the 1870s, Alice became the most important livestock shipment junction in South Texas, and ranching has remained a mainstay of the county's economy ever since; cotton and sorghum are important crops, as are hay, corn, and wheat; since the discovery of oil in the area in 1931, the county has become one of the state's leaders in oil production; and

WHEREAS, Notable communities in Jim Wells County include Orange Grove, Ben Bolt-Palito Blanco, Premont, Sandia, and La Gloria; the county seat, Alice is a center for health care, with an outstanding medical facility, the CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital Alice; the Tejano R.O.O.T.S. Hall of Fame in Alice honors Tejano culture and recognizes the region as the birthplace of this popular musical genre; area culture is further showcased at the South Texas Museum, housed in the historic McGill Brothers Building, and the annual Fiesta Bandana, celebrating Cinco de Mayo, is a highlight of the county's cultural calendar; and

WHEREAS, Celebrating their vibrant heritage as they embrace the opportunities of the future, the citizens of Jim Wells County are building on a long tradition of industry, achievement, and public spirit, and they are indeed deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize February 19, 2019, as Jim Wells County Day at the State Capitol and extend to its residents sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable visit to Austin.