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By:  Nevárez H.R. No. 205

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, A number of proud West Texas citizens are gathering in Austin to celebrate Hudspeth County Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Created out of El Paso County in 1917, Hudspeth County covers more than 4,500 square miles of the vast Chihuahuan Desert, and residents enjoy the area's great natural beauty, sweeping vistas, and friendly, close-knit communities; and

WHEREAS, Numerous archeological sites in the county attest to the presence of farmers and hunter-gatherers in prehistoric times, and missionaries and soldiers from northern New Spain traversed the area as early as 1581 during the Rodríguez-Sánchez expedition; in 1849, John S. "Rip" Ford and Major Robert S. Neighbors charted a trail that would be used by many adventurers on their way to the California gold fields; Fort Quitman was established in 1858 on the Rio Grande, in the southern part of the present-day county, to protect travelers and mail coaches en route between San Antonio and El Paso; and

WHEREAS, In 1881, the country's second transcontinental railroad was completed near what is now Sierra Blanca, and Jay Gould drove in a silver spike to mark the occasion; the town of Sierra Blanca quickly developed into a shipping point and commercial center, and when the county was organized it became the county seat; homesteaders began settling in the area in the early 20th century, and the county later served as a haven for refugees fleeing the upheaval caused during the Mexican Revolution; and

WHEREAS, The economy of Hudspeth County has been based chiefly on ranching, farming, and mining, along with tourism and hunting leases; a section of the Guadalupe Mountains National Park, a destination for outdoors enthusiasts, is located within the county, as is part of the Sierra Diablo Wildlife Management Area, which is home to the largest population of free-ranging bighorn sheep in Texas; in addition, the county is the site of the only adobe courthouse in the state; and

WHEREAS, The citizens of Hudspeth County share a deep appreciation for their beloved corner of the Lone Star State, and it is indeed fitting to honor them for their achievements and their public spirit; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize Hudspeth County Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable stay in Austin.