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By:  Nevárez H.R. No. 618

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Residents of Loving County are gathering in Austin to celebrate Loving County Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, The geographically smallest county in the Permian Basin, Loving County lies to the east of the Pecos River in the Chihuahuan Desert along the Texas-New Mexico border; its 674 square miles of desert, low rolling hills, playas, and dry draws were carved out of Tom Green County in 1887 and named in honor of Oliver Loving, an early Texas cattleman; privately organized by out-of-state businessmen in 1893, the county was officially attached to Reeves County by the state legislature four years later; and

WHEREAS, In 1931, Loving County was reorganized, becoming the only Texas county to be organized twice and the last to be established; its fortunes had risen with the discovery of oil in the 1920s and the founding of the town of Ramsey; new residents came to the community from the nearby settlement of Porterville and beyond; as the county seat, Ramsey was soon given the name of Mentone, and the historic Loving County Courthouse was built there in 1935; and

WHEREAS, Cattle ranching has remained an important part of the local economy since the 1800s, but oil and gas production, the primary industry, has become even more dominant in recent years; while the number of residents has grown to just over 100 with the energy boom, Loving County has long ranked as the most rural county in the nation; the wide-open spaces of Western songs are no mere memory here, and the abundant wildlife includes quail, deer, javelinas, bobcats, coyotes, and armadillos; and

WHEREAS, Citizens may take great pride in the rugged beauty and rich traditions of Loving County as they look forward to the myriad challenges and opportunities of the future; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize Loving County Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best wishes for an informative and enjoyable stay in Austin.