

By: Nevárez

H.R. No. 205

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

7 WHEREAS, Numerous archeological sites in the county attest to
8 the presence of farmers and hunter-gatherers in prehistoric times,
9 and missionaries and soldiers from northern New Spain traversed the
10 area as early as 1581 during the Rodríguez-Sánchez expedition; in
11 1849, John S. "Rip" Ford and Major Robert S. Neighbors charted a
12 trail that would be used by many adventurers on their way to the
13 California gold fields; Fort Quitman was established in 1858 on the
14 Rio Grande, in the southern part of the present-day county, to
15 protect travelers and mail coaches en route between San Antonio and
16 El Paso; and

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

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

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

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