

By: Nevárez

H.R. No. 206

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Jeff Davis County are gathering
2 in Austin to celebrate Jeff Davis County Day at the State Capitol;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, This austerely beautiful region of canyons and
5 windswept plateaus is home to the Davis Mountains, which were first
6 inhabited by prehistoric peoples more than a thousand years ago; in
7 1849, the U.S. Army opened a wagon road from San Antonio to El Paso
8 through the mountains, and in 1854, the army established a fort on
9 the former site of a Native American village; ranchers moved into
10 the area in the 1880s, and Jeff Davis County was organized in 1887
11 with Fort Davis as the county seat; the military post was abandoned
12 in 1891; and

13 WHEREAS, Today, ranching and tourism continue to be the
14 mainstays of the county's economy; the county seat is home to the
15 Fort Davis National Historic Site, which preserves the history and
16 heritage of the frontier cavalry fort; the nearby Chihuahuan Desert
17 Nature Center features 507 acres of rolling grassland and
18 oak-covered hills, as well as a desert botanical garden and a
19 greenhouse; visitors are also drawn by the fine opportunities for
20 camping, birding, hiking, and horseback riding in Davis Mountains
21 State Park, and by the 74-mile scenic highway that winds through the
22 mountains; and

23 WHEREAS, The county is home to the McDonald Observatory of
24 The University of Texas at Austin and its Hobby-Eberly Telescope,

1 one of the largest optical telescopes in the world; the
2 observatory's visitors center offers tours and student activities,
3 as well as star parties several nights each week, where the public
4 can marvel at some of the darkest night skies in the continental
5 United States; and

6 WHEREAS, Each August, the Bloys Cowboy Camp revival meeting
7 is held in Skillman's Grove, and the Fort Davis Chamber of Commerce
8 hosts an annual hummingbird festival in the Davis Mountains; in
9 Fort Davis itself, citizens reenact an old Western bank robbery
10 every Fourth of July; and

11 WHEREAS, Blessed with the opportunity to live in a striking
12 landscape with a rich history, the resilient and independent-minded
13 citizens of Jeff Davis County may indeed take great pride in the
14 unique role their county plays in both the past and the future of
15 the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

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