

By: Nevárez

H.R. No. 288

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Presidio County are visiting  
2 Austin to celebrate Presidio County Day at the State Capitol; and

3 WHEREAS, Steeped in history and possessed of a frontier  
4 mystique, the region features desert terrain that varies from  
5 rolling plains to canyons and volcanic cliffs, rises to some of the  
6 state's tallest mountain ranges, and features its highest  
7 waterfall, Capote Falls, with a drop of 175 feet; and

8 WHEREAS, Presidio County was established from parts of the  
9 Bexar Land District on January 3, 1850, and organized a  
10 quarter-century later; initially the largest county in the United  
11 States at 12,000 square miles, it eventually relinquished land and  
12 now holds the claim of fourth-largest county in the state at nearly  
13 3,860 square miles; its original county seat was Fort Davis, which  
14 became part of Jeff Davis County, and the Presidio County  
15 government relocated to Marfa two years after the town's founding  
16 in 1883; and

17 WHEREAS, From the 1880s to the 1940s, silver mining was a  
18 leading industry after a silver deposit was found in the Chinati  
19 Mountains by local rancher and trader John W. Spencer; his  
20 discovery led to the opening of Presidio Mine, which would produce  
21 more than 32.6 million ounces of silver over the course of its  
22 existence; and

23 WHEREAS, Today, the local economy is based primarily on  
24 agriculture; loamy soil provides fertile ground for growing

1 tomatoes, melons, onions, grain, and cotton, while ranchers have  
2 traditionally raised sheep and cattle, including the famed Highland  
3 Hereford, wherever there is adequate pastureland; although no  
4 permanent streams exist in the county, the completion of Elephant  
5 Butte Dam across the Rio Grande in 1910 created a reliable supply of  
6 irrigation water, greatly increasing farming production; and

7         WHEREAS, Presidio is the county's largest town and home to  
8 the Fort Leaton historic site, a public museum containing ruins,  
9 exhibits, and nature trails; the county seat of Marfa boasts  
10 historical attractions as well as an active local arts scene,  
11 including the world-renowned Chinati Foundation; the town has  
12 become a popular tourist draw for its vintage charm and art and for  
13 the mysterious Marfa Lights, an atmospheric phenomenon first  
14 observed in the night sky in 1883; and

15         WHEREAS, With its friendly people, majestic scenery, and  
16 sundry intangible qualities, Presidio County is truly a treasure of  
17 the Lone Star State, and it is indeed a pleasure to celebrate the  
18 heritage and contributions of this storied region; now, therefore,  
19 be it

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