

By: Nevárez

H.R. No. 618

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

12           WHEREAS, In 1931, Loving County was reorganized, becoming the  
13 only Texas county to be organized twice and the last to be  
14 established; its fortunes had risen with the discovery of oil in the  
15 1920s and the founding of the town of Ramsey; new residents came to  
16 the community from the nearby settlement of Porterville and beyond;  
17 as the county seat, Ramsey was soon given the name of Mentone, and  
18 the historic Loving County Courthouse was built there in 1935; and

19           WHEREAS, Cattle ranching has remained an important part of  
20 the local economy since the 1800s, but oil and gas production, the  
21 primary industry, has become even more dominant in recent years;  
22 while the number of residents has grown to just over 100 with the  
23 energy boom, Loving County has long ranked as the most rural county  
24 in the nation; the wide-open spaces of Western songs are no mere

1 memory here, and the abundant wildlife includes quail, deer,  
2 javelinas, bobcats, coyotes, and armadillos; and

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

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