

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 115

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

WHEREAS, This austere beautiful region of canyons and windswept plateaus is home to the Davis Mountains, which were first inhabited by prehistoric peoples more than a thousand years ago; the region was later home to the Mescalero Apaches, and the first Spanish explorer, Antonio de Espejo, visited Limpia Canyon in 1583; and

WHEREAS, In 1849, the United States Army opened a wagon road from San Antonio to El Paso through the mountains, and in 1854, the army established a fort on the former site of an Indian village, naming it after Jefferson Davis, the secretary of war, and later the president of the Confederacy; Fort Davis changed hands during the Civil War, and the United States Army reoccupied it in 1867; ranchers moved into the area in the 1880s, and Jeff Davis County was organized in 1887 with Fort Davis as the county seat; the military post was abandoned in 1891; and

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

WHEREAS, The county is home to the McDonald Observatory of The University of Texas at Austin and its Hobby-Eberly telescope, one of the largest optical telescopes in the world; the observatory's excellent visitors' center offers tours and student activities, as well as star parties several nights each week, where the public can marvel at some of the darkest night skies in the continental United States; and

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 86th Legislature, hereby recognize Jeff Davis County Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best wishes for a memorable and meaningful visit to Austin.

Rodríguez

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 5, 2019.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate