By: Blanco S.C.R. No. 11

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The picturesque and historic community of Fort Davis deserves special recognition as the town with the highest elevation in the Lone Star State, 5,050 feet above sea level; and

in the Lone Star State, 5,050 feet above sea level; and

WHEREAS, Completely surrounded by the Chihuahuan Desert,

Fort Davis is situated among the Davis Mountains in what

geographers call a "sky island," a self-contained mountainous

region with a cooler and wetter climate than the hot, arid region

all around it; this impressive geological formation is the result

of volcanic activity 35 million years ago, and the area's forested

11 ecology is inhabited by flora and fauna that couldn't survive in the

12 desert below; for centuries, Native American groups, including the

13 Mescalero Apache, used this elevated, temperate region as a refuge

14 from the harsh conditions of the desert; and

WHEREAS, Fort Davis takes its name from the U.S. Army post that was established in 1854, a location now preserved as the Fort Davis National Historic Site; Brevet General Persifor F. Smith, commander of the Department of Texas, personally selected the site in part because the high elevation helped guarantee its "pure water and salubrious climate"; thanks to its unusual geography, the area was also blessed with ample timber, game, and forage for livestock, which benefited the soldiers of the fort, as well as the ranchers and other settlers who followed; through the decades, the town has been popular with visitors who enjoy its cool nights during the

- 1 blistering heat of a Texas summer, a tradition that began in the
- 2 years before air conditioning and continues to the present; and
- 3 WHEREAS, In addition to the restored fort, the area's
- 4 attractions include the scenic beauty of Davis Mountains State Park
- 5 and its majestic Indian Lodge hotel as well as the magnificent
- 6 ponderosa pines of the Davis Mountains Preserve; motorists enjoy
- 7 driving the Davis Mountains Scenic Loop, which is the highest
- 8 section of the Texas highway system, reaching an altitude of 6,700
- 9 feet; star-filled nights are another boon of the town's elevation,
- 10 and they are best experienced at the Star Parties hosted by the
- 11 nearby McDonald Observatory; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Uniquely situated amid rugged mountains and below
- 13 the spectacular West Texas sky, Fort Davis is beloved by residents
- 14 and visitors alike, and it has earned a well-deserved reputation as
- 15 one of the Lone Star State's "top" destinations; now, therefore, be
- 16 it
- 17 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
- 18 hereby designate Fort Davis as the official Highest Town in Texas;
- 19 and, be it further
- 20 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
- 21 391.003(e), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
- 22 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
- 23 passed by the legislature.