

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 WHEREAS, The picturesque and historic community of Fort Davis
3 deserves special recognition as the town with the highest elevation
4 in the Lone Star State, 5,050 feet above sea level; and

5 WHEREAS, Completely surrounded by the Chihuahuan Desert,
6 Fort Davis is situated among the Davis Mountains in what
7 geographers call a "sky island," a self-contained mountainous
8 region with a cooler and wetter climate than the hot, arid region
9 all around it; this impressive geological formation is the result
10 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

15 WHEREAS, Fort Davis takes its name from the U.S. Army post
16 that was established in 1854, a location now preserved as the Fort
17 Davis National Historic Site; Brevet General Persifor F. Smith,
18 commander of the Department of Texas, personally selected the site
19 in part because the high elevation helped guarantee its "pure water
20 and salubrious climate"; thanks to its unusual geography, the area
21 was also blessed with ample timber, game, and forage for livestock,
22 which benefited the soldiers of the fort, as well as the ranchers
23 and other settlers who followed; through the decades, the town has
24 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.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 11 was adopted by the Senate on April 19, 2021, by a viva-voce vote.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 11 was adopted by the House on May 11, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 129, Nays 17, 2 present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor