

By: Blanco  
(Morales of Maverick)

S.C.R. No. 11

1                   SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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.