

By: Blanco

S.C.R. No. 11

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

4 WHEREAS, Completely surrounded by the Chihuahuan Desert,
5 Fort Davis is situated among the Davis Mountains in what
6 geographers call a "sky island," a self-contained mountainous
7 region with a cooler and wetter climate than the hot, arid region
8 all around it; this impressive geological formation is the result
9 of volcanic activity 35 million years ago, and the area's forested
10 ecology is inhabited by flora and fauna that couldn't survive in the
11 desert below; for centuries, Native American groups, including the
12 Mescalero Apache, used this elevated, temperate region as a refuge
13 from the harsh conditions of the desert; and

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

1 years before air conditioning and continues to the present; and

2 WHEREAS, In addition to the restored fort, the area's
3 attractions include the scenic beauty of Davis Mountains State Park
4 and its majestic Indian Lodge hotel as well as the magnificent
5 ponderosa pines of the Davis Mountains Preserve; motorists enjoy
6 driving the Davis Mountains Scenic Loop, which is the highest
7 section of the Texas highway system, reaching an altitude of 6,700
8 feet; star-filled nights are another boon of the town's elevation,
9 and they are best experienced at the Star Parties hosted by the
10 nearby McDonald Observatory; and

11 WHEREAS, Uniquely situated amid rugged mountains and below
12 the spectacular West Texas sky, Fort Davis is beloved by residents
13 and visitors alike, and it has earned a well-deserved reputation as
14 one of the Lone Star State's "top" destinations; now, therefore, be
15 it

16 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
17 hereby designate Fort Davis as the official Highest Town in Texas;
18 and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
20 [391.003\(e\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
21 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
22 passed by the legislature.