88R9594 CJM-D

By:  Lozano H.R. No. 119

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Residents of Jim Wells County are gathering at the State Capitol on February 14, 2023; and

WHEREAS, A landscape of sweeping grasslands and wide horizons, the county's early inhabitants enjoyed the region's mild winters and abundant game; after the first European settlement in 1754, at Penitas Creek, Mexican ranchers developed land grants into sheep and cattle ranches; in 1848 the region became part of the State of Texas, and it was formally incorporated as a county in 1911 and named after the prominent developer and attorney James B. Wells Jr.; and

WHEREAS, With the arrival of the railroad in the 1870s, Alice became the most important livestock shipment junction in South Texas, and ranching has remained a mainstay of the county's economy ever since; cotton and sorghum are key crops, as are hay, corn, and wheat; since the discovery of oil in the area in 1931, the county has become one of the state's leaders in oil production; and

WHEREAS, Notable communities in Jim Wells County include Orange Grove, Ben Bolt-Palito Blanco, Premont, Sandia, and La Gloria; the county seat, Alice is a center for health care, with an outstanding medical facility, the CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital Alice; the Tejano R.O.O.T.S. Hall of Fame in Alice honors Tejano culture and recognizes the region as the birthplace of this popular musical genre; the area's distinctive history is showcased at the South Texas Museum, housed in the 1940s McGill Brothers Building; and

WHEREAS, Celebrating their vibrant heritage as they embrace the opportunities of the future, the citizens of Jim Wells County are building on a long tradition of industry, achievement, and public spirit, and they are indeed deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby recognize February 14, 2023, as Jim Wells County Day at the State Capitol and extend a warm welcome to the visiting delegation.