

By: Bailes

H.R. No. 194

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents are gathering in Austin on
2 February 13, 2023, to celebrate Hardin County Day at the State
3 Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Situated northeast of Houston, Hardin County is
5 predominantly made up of pine and hardwood forests in the East Texas
6 Timberlands region; attracted by the mineral waters of Medicine
7 Lake, Native Americans visited the area long before it became part
8 of the Atascosito District of Spanish and Mexican Texas; attempts
9 at colonization began in earnest in 1834 when the Mexican
10 government made land grants, and in 1835, Stephen Jackson founded a
11 settlement at Sour Lake; and

12 WHEREAS, Following the Texas Revolution, the area was split
13 between the jurisdictions of Liberty and Jefferson Counties; in
14 1858, the State Legislature established Hardin County, drawing
15 territory from both parent counties; under state law, the county's
16 name honored the Hardin family of Liberty, and the county seat also
17 bore that name; in 1881, the Sabine and East Texas Railroad bypassed
18 Hardin in favor of its own newly established town, Kountze, which
19 ultimately became the county seat; and

20 WHEREAS, Early farmers in Hardin County raised corn, sweet
21 potatoes, hogs, cattle, sheep, and horses; as early as 1878,
22 loggers were floating cut timber to the Neches River and on to
23 Beaumont, and by 1881, at least two lumber-processing mills were
24 operating in the county; the subsequent arrivals of other railway

1 companies further stimulated the lumber industry; a big economic
2 boost came with the discovery of oil at Saratoga and Batson and the
3 development of the Sour Lake oil field in 1903; today, chambers of
4 commerce in Kountze, Lumberton, Silsbee, and Sour Lake promote
5 economic development in their communities; and

6 WHEREAS, Hardin County is further buoyed by its robust
7 ecotourism, which offers ample opportunities for camping,
8 paddling, fishing, hiking, biking, and wildlife viewing; a major
9 attraction is the Big Thicket National Preserve, where visitors can
10 explore nine different ecosystems; moreover, Village Creek State
11 Park sits along one of the few free-flowing creeks in Texas, and the
12 Roy E. Larsen Sandyland Sanctuary protects diverse plant
13 communities; and

14 WHEREAS, Residents of Hardin County are working together to
15 build an even brighter future, and this special day provides a
16 fitting opportunity to pay tribute to the county and its people;
17 now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
19 Legislature hereby recognize February 13, 2023, as Hardin County
20 Day at the State Capitol and extend a warm welcome to the visiting
21 delegation.