

By: Slawson

H.R. No. 1339

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud citizens of Coryell County are gathering in
2 Austin on May 28, 2025, in celebration of Coryell County Day at the
3 State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Situated in the Cross Timbers ecological region of
5 Central Texas, the area that would become Coryell County was first
6 inhabited by prehistoric peoples and later by Tonkawa, Lipan
7 Apache, Kiowa, and Comanche Indians; the region was part of the
8 Milam Land District, and though it was assigned by the Mexican
9 government for settlement in 1825, few residents arrived until the
10 late 1840s, when Fort Gates and other American military posts were
11 founded to protect locals from Indian raids; in 1854, the Texas
12 Legislature established Coryell County and named it in honor of
13 frontiersman and Texas Ranger James Coryell, an early landholder;
14 Gatesville, which had formed around Fort Gates, was chosen as the
15 county seat; and

16 WHEREAS, In its early years, the county's economy was driven
17 by stock raising and subsistence farming, with corn, wheat, and
18 cotton being key crops; though the Civil War and its aftermath
19 brought hardships for many, the economy began to recover in the late
20 1860s, and the county's population more than doubled between 1870
21 and 1880; the arrival of the Texas and St. Louis Railway and the
22 Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway in 1882 prompted the
23 establishment of new communities and provided opportunities for
24 existing ones; by the turn of the century, the county's population

1 had grown to more than 21,000 people; and

2 WHEREAS, Today, Coryell County is home to more than 86,000
3 residents, and its economy benefits from the retail, agricultural,
4 corrections, manufacturing, health care, and defense industries,
5 with the presence of Fort Cavazos and state prisons being key
6 contributors; notable communities include Gatesville and Copperas
7 Cove, and among its educational institutions are Central Texas
8 College and nearby Texas A&M University Central Texas; residents
9 and visitors alike enjoy such attractions as the Last Drive-In
10 Picture Show, the Coryell County Museum, and the annual Shivarree
11 festival; and

12 WHEREAS, The people of Coryell County take great pride in
13 their rich history as they work together to build an even brighter
14 future, and it is indeed fitting to honor them for their unique
15 contributions to the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
17 Legislature hereby recognize May 28, 2025, as Coryell County Day at
18 the State Capitol and extend a warm welcome to the visiting
19 delegation.