

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Community Historical Archaeology Project with
2 Schools (CHAPS) program of The University of Texas Rio Grande
3 Valley has received the 2020 Governor's Award for Historic
4 Preservation; and

5 WHEREAS, The state's most prestigious honor for historic
6 preservation, the Governor's Award has been presented by the Texas
7 Historical Commission since 1991 to individuals and organizations
8 for outstanding efforts in preserving the cultural and historic
9 resources of Texas; and

10 WHEREAS, Established in 2009 by founding director
11 Dr. Russell Skowronek, CHAPS brings scholars from UTRGV into area
12 schools to train students from kindergarten through high school in
13 the stewardship of natural resources and historical sites; the
14 program helps create archaeologically and historically literate
15 citizens while preparing them for continuing studies in science,
16 technology, engineering, and mathematics; and

17 WHEREAS, Under the direction of Dr. Walter Díaz, dean of the
18 College of Liberal Arts, the program is currently led by associate
19 director Dr. Christopher L. Miller of the Department of History,
20 co-director Dr. Juan Gonzalez of the School of Earth,
21 Environmental, and Marine Sciences, and project director Roseann
22 Bacha-Garza of the Department of Anthropology, and it also utilizes
23 the talents of UTRGV faculty from the biology, communication,
24 education, and geology departments; in addition, it has forged

1 beneficial partnerships with the National Park Service, the Museum
2 of South Texas History, the Zapata County Museum of History, Revive
3 Fort Ringgold, the Webb County Heritage Foundation, and the
4 Historic Brownsville Museum; and

5 WHEREAS, The program's traveling exhibits, *War and Peace on*
6 *the Rio Grande 1861-1867* and *Discovering Fort Brown: The First*
7 *Military Border Post in Texas*, have been on display at museums and
8 other sites from Laredo to Corpus Christi and have drawn more than
9 40,000 visitors, and CHAPS and its faculty have been featured on
10 many local, state, national, and international media broadcast
11 outlets, including National Public Radio and the BBC World Service;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, In addition to the Governor's Award, the program has
14 received the 2020 Mary Faye Barnes Award for Excellence in
15 Community History Projects from the Texas Oral History Association;
16 its earlier awards have included the Daniel G. Roberts Award for
17 Excellence in Public Historical Archaeology from the Society for
18 Historical Archaeology, the THC Award of Merit, and the
19 Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Contributions of
20 Service to Texas Archeology from the Texas Archeological Society,
21 among others; and

22 WHEREAS, A unique and dynamic educational program, CHAPS has
23 inspired countless young people to explore and engage with the rich
24 history and natural wonders of this important region of the Lone
25 Star State, and it is truly deserving of this notable accolade; now,
26 therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas

H.R. No. 1720

1 Legislature hereby congratulate the Community Historical
2 Archaeology Project with Schools on its receipt of the 2020
3 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation and extend to all those
4 associated with the program sincere best wishes for continued
5 success; and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
7 prepared for CHAPS as an expression of high regard by the Texas
8 House of Representatives.

Lucio III
Martinez
Guerra
Longoria

Canales
Dominguez
Guillen
Muñoz, Jr.

H.R. No. 1720

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1720 was adopted by the House on May 29, 2021, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House