

By: Moody

H.R. No. 993

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, On March 21, 2023, President Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
2 signed a proclamation establishing the Castner Range National  
3 Monument near El Paso; and

4           WHEREAS, Encompassing nearly 6,700 acres in the high desert  
5 of far West Texas, Castner Range makes up the southern portion of  
6 the Franklin Mountains; the creation of the national monument puts  
7 into place a wide range of protections for wildlife, ecosystems,  
8 culturally significant sites, unique geological features, and  
9 archeological, paleontological, biological, and ecological  
10 resources; and

11           WHEREAS, Located on the Fort Bliss military base near the  
12 heart of El Paso, Castner Range served as the training and testing  
13 site for the U.S. Army from 1926 through 1966; the area was once  
14 home to the Comanche Nation and the Apache, Pueblo, Hopi, and Kiowa  
15 Tribes, among other indigenous peoples; within Castner Range,  
16 scientists have identified 41 archeological sites that include  
17 living structures, hearths, remnants of pottery and tools, and  
18 petroglyphs and images; and

19           WHEREAS, An area of rich biodiversity for desert species,  
20 Castner Range features a high concentration of natural springs and  
21 crucial habitat for such wildlife as American peregrine falcons,  
22 golden eagles, Texas horned lizards, black-tailed prairie dogs, and  
23 Western burrowing owls; rare and endemic plants are also found  
24 throughout the range, and its protection will play a vital role in

1 setting up migratory corridors that allow for safe wildlife travel;  
2 moreover, the declaration of the land as a monument will expand  
3 access to outdoor recreation on public land while providing  
4 research and educational opportunities for people of all ages in a  
5 natural classroom setting; and

6 WHEREAS, The preservation and protection of Castner Range  
7 honors the history of the Native Americans and the military  
8 veterans who once lived and worked there, and the new national  
9 monument stands as a beautiful and majestic landmark that  
10 El Pasoans and all visitors will enjoy for years to come; now,  
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
13 Legislature hereby commemorate the establishment of the Castner  
14 Range National Monument and extend sincere appreciation to the  
15 environmental leaders and advocates who helped bring about this  
16 historic designation.