

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 502

WHEREAS, San Elizario has been named Best Historic Small Town in the *USA Today* 2023 Readers' Choice Awards; and

WHEREAS, The community traces its roots to 1598, when Spanish explorer Juan de Oñate reached the Rio Grande near the present-day site of the city; the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro trade route between Mexico City and Santa Fe passed through the area, and a settlement named Hacienda de los Tiburcios was founded before 1760; in 1789, a Spanish presidio was established, and the town that grew up around it became known as San Elizario; formerly part of the Mexican state of Chihuahua, the town became part of Texas following the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848; and

WHEREAS, Today, San Elizario is a popular stop on the El Paso Mission Trail and is home to such attractions as the San Elizario Presidio Chapel, the Old El Paso County Jail Museum, and Los Portales Casa Garcia museum; the widespread use of adobe construction and the territorial and pueblo revival architecture found throughout the town help to preserve its historical aesthetic; in addition, San Elizario features a number of galleries displaying the work of local artists, and the city holds special events such as the Art Market and the Billy the Kid Festival that feature gunfighting reenactments, live music, and other entertainment; and

WHEREAS, With its rich history and characteristic charm, San Elizario is a delight for residents and visitors alike, and the town is indeed deserving of this notable accolade; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 88th Legislature, hereby congratulate San Elizario on being named Best Historic Small Town in the *USA Today* 2023 Readers' Choice Awards and commend all those who help to maintain the city's distinctive appeal; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for the City of San Elizario as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Blanco

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 2, 2023.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate