

By: Pena

H.R. No. 197

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, October 14, 2003, marks the 95th anniversary of a
2 significant event in the history of South Texas, the transfer of the
3 Hidalgo County seat from the city of Hidalgo to the city of
4 Edinburg; and

5 WHEREAS, The municipality today known as Hidalgo was
6 originally designated the county seat in 1852, at the time of
7 Hidalgo County's creation; located near the banks of the Rio
8 Grande, the city was subject to frequent flooding, and soon after
9 the turn of the century the leaders of Hidalgo County began their
10 search for a more suitable location to conduct governmental
11 business; their solution was found 16 miles northeast of Hidalgo,
12 at a site within a 50,000-acre spread of mesquite brush land known
13 as Rancho Edinburgo; and

14 WHEREAS, On October 10, 1908, the citizens of the county
15 voted 422 to 90 in favor of moving the courthouse to this new site,
16 which at the time was named Chapin, in honor of one of its original
17 founders; opponents of the move were not to be dissuaded, however,
18 and threatened to seek an injunction; the county leaders
19 responsible for effecting the move, John Closner, tax
20 assessor-collector Joe R. Alamia, commissioner William Sprague,
21 county clerk Andres Chavez, and county attorney Dick Swearingen,
22 forcibly removed the county records the following day, transporting
23 them under armed guard to the new county seat of Chapin, now known
24 as Edinburg; ultimately, the arrival of the records on October 14,

1 1908, was greeted by county residents with great enthusiasm, and
2 since that day 95 years ago the city of Edinburg has remained the
3 official county seat of Hidalgo County; and

4 WHEREAS, Edinburg was an unincorporated town until a vote for
5 incorporation was approved unanimously on September 8, 1919; the
6 year 2003 marks the 84th anniversary of Edinburg's incorporation;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Representative Aaron Peña has justly recognized
9 this important event by authoring this resolution in behalf of the
10 citizens of Edinburg during the 78th legislative session; now,
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
13 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby commemorate the 95th
14 anniversary of Edinburg's designation as the county seat of Hidalgo
15 County.