

By: Chavez

H.R. No. 183

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas House of Representatives takes pleasure in
2 welcoming distinguished visitors from El Paso on February 10, 2003,
3 who are here to celebrate El Paso Day in Austin; and

4 WHEREAS, During almost 400 years of history, El Paso Del
5 Norte in the Franklin Mountains reflects the influence of its
6 original indigenous inhabitants, the Spanish missions with their
7 accompanying priests and converts, and the newer Anglo settlements,
8 and is also a 21st century city that is bilingual, bicultural, and
9 binational; and

10 WHEREAS, El Paso and its sister city, Ciudad Juarez, Mexico,
11 have been linked for over three centuries and now form the largest
12 international border community in the world; El Paso has friendly
13 people, a skilled workforce, and a distinct and beautiful culture
14 that attracts industries, businesses, and tourists; and

15 WHEREAS, The University of Texas at El Paso is located in the
16 foothills of the southernmost end of the Rocky Mountains; and

17 WHEREAS, The city was ranked as the fourth-best overall
18 Southern market for the past 10 years by *Southern Business &*
19 *Development* magazine because of its location on the border and its
20 public/private economic development partnerships; also, several
21 successful businesses began their operations in El Paso, including
22 Old El Paso Foods, Continental Airlines, and the Hilton Hotel
23 chain, and popular legend has it that El Paso resident Francisco
24 "Pancho" Morales created the margarita; and

1 WHEREAS, El Paso has been repeatedly ranked as the
2 third-safest city in the United States with a population of half a
3 million or more; and

4 WHEREAS, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center-El
5 Paso is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year; it has played a
6 vital role in El Paso's health care history, providing 10 specialty
7 residencies in border-intensive venues such as infectious
8 diseases, diabetes, migrant health, and community-oriented primary
9 care; and

10 WHEREAS, El Paso is the center of myriad cultural
11 attractions, such as the Chamizal National Memorial, the El Paso
12 Museum of Art, the El Paso Museum of History, the El Paso Centennial
13 Museum, the El Paso Historic Mission Trail, and the Ysleta del Sur
14 Pueblo Indian Tribe and Reservation, home of one of three
15 recognized Native American tribes in Texas; and

16 WHEREAS, The city can also boast many natural attractions,
17 including Hueco Tanks Historical Park, the Wyler Aerial Tramway,
18 and the Mission Trail, where Texans can visit the Ysleta Mission,
19 Socorro Mission, and the San Elizario Chapel; and

20 WHEREAS, Basketball Hall of Fame member Don Haskins is an El
21 Paso resident and former longtime basketball coach at The
22 University of Texas at El Paso; he moved to El Paso in 1961 and was
23 already established as a notable coach among his peers; he led the
24 Miners to seven Western Athletic Conference championships and 14
25 National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament appearances,
26 including one in 1966 when his team won the title game by a score of
27 72-65, the first team to do so with a starting squad of all African

1 American players; and

2 WHEREAS, Another outstanding citizen of El Paso is Rosa
3 Guerrero; after retiring from teaching, she formed the Rosa
4 Guerrero Folklorico in 1979, and she continues to run the group
5 today while also supporting bilingual education and initiatives to
6 help high school drop-out students; and

7 WHEREAS, One of the most famous writers in the country today
8 is an El Paso resident, Cormac McCarthy, an author whose works
9 include *Suttree*, *Blood Meridian*, and his border trilogy, *All the*
10 *Pretty Horses*, *The Crossing*, and *Cities of the Plains*; and

11 WHEREAS, An acclaimed artist who was born in El Paso is Tom
12 Lea; after displaying a natural aptitude for painting and drawing
13 as a child, Lea received formal training at the Art Institute of
14 Chicago from 1924 to 1926 and as apprentice and assistant to Chicago
15 muralist John Norton from 1927 to 1932; in 1930, Mr. Lea traveled to
16 Italy to study techniques of Renaissance wall painting; as an
17 artist, Mr. Lea was commissioned by *Life* magazine in 1946 to paint a
18 series of canvasses depicting Western cattle, which *Life* presented
19 to the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts; in 1953, The University of Texas
20 Press published *Tom Lea: a Portfolio of Six Paintings* with an
21 introduction by J. Frank Dobie; Mr. Lea's first large exhibition
22 was mounted in 1961 at the Fort Worth Art Center, and he has also had
23 exhibitions at the El Paso Museum of Art and the Institute of Texan
24 Cultures in San Antonio; and

25 WHEREAS, Another celebrated artist who is an El Paso citizen
26 is Jose Cisneros, famed for his depictions of early life in Durango,
27 Mexico, and for collaborations with other artists; he won The

1 University of Texas Paisano Fellowship in 1969, and his works are
2 collected all over the world; he was proclaimed a Living Legend in
3 1997, and Governor and Mrs. George Bush honored him with a reception
4 and dinner in 1998 in the Governor's Mansion; and

5 WHEREAS, Ernesto Pedregon Martinez, the Texas state artist
6 for two-dimensional works for 1997-1998, hails from South El Paso;
7 a self-taught artist, Mr. Martinez paints the everyday struggles of
8 the Mexican people; a muralist, he has created military, religious,
9 and patriotic murals for hospitals, churches, and schools; Mr.
10 Martinez was designated Artist of the Year by the League of United
11 Latin American Citizens in 1975; and

12 WHEREAS, Natives of this westernmost Texas city have achieved
13 acclaim in many areas of endeavor, including entertainment,
14 journalism, and law; among those who have risen to prominence are
15 United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor,
16 entertainer Debbie Reynolds, newsman Sam Donaldson, *Star Trek*
17 creator Gene Roddenberry, ventriloquist Ronn Lucas, Texas rock and
18 roll pioneer Bobby Fuller, and singer Florencia Bisenita de Casillas
19 Martinez Cardona (better known as Vikki Carr); Ciudad Juarez is the
20 hometown of internationally known recording artist Juan Gabriel;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, The colorful traditions and rich culture of El Paso
23 ensure its prominence in the tales of Texas, and its citizens can
24 indeed take great pride in the extraordinary city they call home;
25 now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
27 Legislature hereby welcome the visiting delegation from El Paso to

1 the State Capitol for El Paso Day on February 10, 2003; and, be it
2 further

3 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
4 prepared for the delegation as an expression of highest regard by
5 the Texas House of Representatives.