

By: Puente

H.R. No. 398

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, On March 9, 2003, the citizens of San Antonio will
2 gather to pay tribute to the 15 Canary Island families who arrived
3 in Texas 272 years ago and who established the historic villa of San
4 Fernando de Béxar; and

5 WHEREAS, This remarkable chapter in the annals of Texas
6 history began in 1719, when the Marqués de San Miguel de Aguayo
7 proposed that the Spanish crown recruit families from the Canary
8 Islands, an archipelago located off the coast of Morocco, to settle
9 in Texas; such colonization would help cement Spanish claims to the
10 region and block France's westward expansion from Louisiana; and

11 WHEREAS, After enduring many hardships, the Canary Islanders
12 reached the presidio of San Antonio de Béxar on March 9, 1731, to be
13 welcomed by Captain Juan Antonio Pérez de Almazán and his soldiers;
14 within months of their arrival, the settlers had established the
15 territory's first regularly organized civil government, that of the
16 new villa of San Fernando de Béxar; and

17 WHEREAS, That small town has grown in size, stature, and
18 influence to become the city of San Antonio; over the course of the
19 past 300 years, descendants of the original 56 colonists have
20 played a key role in the city's emergence as one of our nation's
21 largest and most diverse communities, and today they remain proud
22 guardians of a uniquely important historical legacy; now,
23 therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas

1 Legislature hereby recognize the role of the Canary Islanders in
2 the founding of the villa of San Fernando de Béxar, now known as the
3 city of San Antonio; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for the descendants of the 15 Canary Island families as an
6 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.