

By: Chavez

H.R. No. 927

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Between 1933 and 1945, the National Socialist party  
2 of Germany implemented official policies of mass murder and torture  
3 that led to the killing of six million Jews, including a staggering  
4 1.5 million children, and five million other Europeans deemed  
5 "undesirable"; and

6           WHEREAS, The El Paso Holocaust Museum and Study Center was  
7 established to honor the survivors of the Nazi Holocaust, to pay  
8 respect to those who lost relatives and friends, and to pay tribute  
9 to those who died during one of history's darkest and most  
10 terrifying periods; and

11           WHEREAS, First established in 1984 in a single room in the El  
12 Paso Jewish Community Center, this remarkable institution has won  
13 international recognition and support; it moved into its own  
14 dedicated facility in 1994, fulfilling the vision of its founder,  
15 Holocaust survivor and distinguished Texan Henry Kellen and  
16 featuring an impressive collection of artifacts, documents,  
17 videotapes, and items retrieved from the ghettos, killing fields,  
18 labor camps, and death camps of Europe during World War II; and

19           WHEREAS, An electrical fire in 2001 destroyed many of these  
20 important items on display, but the committed and compassionate  
21 citizens of El Paso have rallied to the museum's assistance,  
22 helping to raise money toward the rebuilding of the facility, as  
23 well as toward its current and future education and museum  
24 acquisition programs; the new building, designed by Mexican

1 architect Fernando Romero, will be located in the downtown district  
2 of El Paso, contributing to that city's growing reputation as a  
3 vibrant cultural center, and the museum is projected to reopen in  
4 2005; and

5 WHEREAS, The El Paso Holocaust Museum and Study Center has,  
6 over the course of the past decade, created educational programs,  
7 organized commemorative events, promoted greater awareness of hate  
8 crimes, and provided a venue in which Holocaust survivors and  
9 concentration camp liberators can share their experiences with  
10 future generations; through its efforts, tens of thousands of  
11 Texans have learned more about the dangers of religious and  
12 political zealotry, perils that continue to foster wars, violent  
13 crimes, and terrorist attacks in nations across the globe; now,  
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
16 Legislature hereby honor the El Paso Holocaust Museum and Study  
17 Center and extend to its curators, staff, and supporters sincere  
18 best wishes for a successful reopening of the facility in 2005; and,  
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
21 prepared for the museum as an expression of highest regard by the  
22 Texas House of Representatives.