

By: Quintanilla

H.R. No. 1493

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society is
2 making an immeasurable contribution to our understanding and
3 appreciation of one of the most historic areas of the Lone Star
4 State; and

5 WHEREAS, Located a short distance southeast of downtown El
6 Paso and originally known as the Hacienda de los Tiburcios, San
7 Elizario was founded sometime before 1760; the community acquired
8 its present name from the San Elizario Presidio, which was
9 relocated to the community in 1789; one of the most important towns
10 in the area for much of the 19th century, San Elizario served as the
11 first county seat of El Paso County; and

12 WHEREAS, The San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society
13 was organized as the result of a 1991 family reunion, when
14 reminiscences flowed freely about days gone by; chartered in 1997,
15 the society today is composed of more than 100 members from across
16 the country, including many descendants of the community's founding
17 families; and

18 WHEREAS, Society volunteers maintain a genealogy/historical
19 museum, housed in the building that served as the county's first
20 public school; they also operate a tourist information center and
21 provide tour guides for the many tourists, students, and educators
22 from around the world who visit El Paso and the Mission Valley
23 Historic District, a nine-mile-long zone embracing the
24 centuries-old communities of San Elizario, Ysleta, and Socorro; and

1 WHEREAS, In addition, the society hosts an annual conference
2 during the last week of April, a date that honors the thanksgiving
3 celebration that was held in the vicinity of San Elizario on April
4 30, 1598, 23 years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock;
5 other activities and programs include the Mission Valley Youth Arts
6 Festival, the Las Posadas pageant, the placing of luminarias
7 throughout the Mission Valley Historic District, veterans exhibits
8 and an annual Veterans Day program, an annual luncheon paying
9 tribute to senior citizens, and fund-raising events honoring
10 public-spirited local residents; and

11 WHEREAS, This outstanding community group is working
12 energetically to fulfill its mission of fostering local pride,
13 encouraging the preservation of historical sites, and supporting
14 heritage tourism in San Elizario and the Mission Valley; now,
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
17 Legislature hereby commend the San Elizario Genealogy and
18 Historical Society for its dynamic leadership in preserving and
19 promoting the rich heritage of San Elizario and the Mission Valley
20 and extend to its members sincere best wishes for continued success
21 in their vital endeavors.