

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 125

WHEREAS, The Texas Senate takes pleasure in welcoming distinguished visitors from El Paso on February 10, 2003, who are here to celebrate El Paso Day in Austin; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Basketball Hall of Fame member Don Haskins is an El Paso resident and former longtime basketball coach at The University of Texas at El Paso; he moved to El Paso in 1961 and was already established as a notable coach among his peers; he led the Miners to seven Western Athletic Conference championships and 14 National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament appearances, including one in 1966 when his team won

the title game by a score of 72-65, the first team to do so with a starting squad of all African American players; and

WHEREAS, Another outstanding citizen of El Paso is Rosa Guerrero; after retiring from teaching, she formed the Rosa Guerrero Folklórico in 1979, and she continues to run the group today while also supporting bilingual education and initiatives to help high school dropouts; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Another celebrated artist who is an El Paso citizen is Jose Cisneros, famed for his depictions of early life in Durango, Mexico, and for collaborations with other artists; he won The University of Texas Paisano Fellowship in 1969, and his works are collected all over the world; he was proclaimed a Living Legend in 1997, and Governor and Mrs. George Bush honored him with a reception and dinner in 1998 in the Governor's Mansion; and

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

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

WHEREAS, The colorful traditions and rich culture of El Paso ensure its prominence in the tales of Texas, and its

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citizens can indeed take great pride in the extraordinary city they call home; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby welcome the visiting delegation from El Paso to the State Capitol for El Paso Day on February 10, 2003; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for the delegation as an expression of highest regard by the Texas Senate.

Shapleigh

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 10, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate