

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 480

WHEREAS, The Texas Senate is pleased to welcome the fine citizens from San Antonio to the State Capitol and to recognize April 1, 2003, as San Antonio Legislative Day; and

WHEREAS, San Antonio's history can be traced back to 1691 when a band of Spanish explorers and missionaries came upon a river, and because it was the feast day of Saint Anthony, they named the river "San Antonio"; and

WHEREAS, The city was actually founded in 1718 when Father Antonio Olivares established Mission San Antonio de Valero; the mission was later named the Alamo and became permanently etched in the annals of history after 1836 when 189 defenders held the historic mission against some 4,000 Mexican troops for 13 days; and

WHEREAS, The cry "Remember the Alamo" became the rallying point of the Texas Revolution against Mexico, and today, the Alamo is a shrine and museum and is recognized as the "Cradle of Texas Liberty"; and

WHEREAS, The city was formally incorporated in 1837 when the young Republic of Texas granted San Antonio a charter; and

WHEREAS, The City of San Antonio has carefully retained its sense of history and tradition, while faced with the complexities of cosmopolitan progress; it has continued to be a crossroads and a meeting place where the rich sounds and flavors of Native Americans, Old Mexico, Germans, the Wild West, African-Americans, and the Deep South mingle and merge; and

WHEREAS, The city has a proud military heritage; military greats like Pershing, Stillwell, Krueger, LeMay, Chennault, and Eisenhower served at San Antonio-area military installations, including Fort Sam Houston, headquarters for the Fifth United States Army and Health Services Command and the future home of the United States Army Southern Command; the former Kelly Air Force Base, which became one of the military's first aviation flight training centers and is now a thriving base development authority; Lackland Air Force Base, the United States Air Force's basic training base and the world's largest military training center; and the former Brooks Air Force Base, now known as Brooks City-Base, the home of aviation medicine and research; and

WHEREAS, Recent years have brought remarkable economic development to San Antonio because of its skilled workforce, excellent institutions of public and higher education, and businesses and industries attracted by its quality of life; the city is now a recognized leader in the areas of biomedical sciences and health care, tourism, information technology and security, aviation, aerospace, telecommunications,

and logistics and transportation; it also has the envious distinction of serving as the gateway for international trade between the United States and Latin America; and

WHEREAS, Close to eight million visitors a year delight in the discovery of San Antonio's charms, such as the Alamo, La Villita, San Fernando Cathedral, the San Antonio Missions Trail, the McNay Art Museum, the San Antonio Museum of Art, and the famed Paseo del Rio, better known as the Riverwalk; and

WHEREAS, A multitude of other attractions make San Antonio one of the top tourist destinations in the country, including Sea World San Antonio, the world's largest marine life park; Six Flags Fiesta Texas, an entertainment theme park that celebrates the musical sounds of San Antonio and South Texas; the San Antonio Zoo, which has a collection of more than 3,000 animals and is ranked as one of the best in the country; and the Tower of the Americas, a 750-foot free-standing structure that is one of the tallest in North America and has come to symbolize the skyline of this great city; and

WHEREAS, With over 300 days of sunshine annually and an average temperature of 68 degrees Fahrenheit, San Antonio offers an abundance of outdoor sports and recreational and festive activities; the biggest party of the year begins later this month, when the city hosts Fiesta San Antonio from April 19 to April 27, 2003, a nine-day extravaganza of merrymaking that celebrates San Antonio's rich and diverse heritage; and

WHEREAS, In a recent survey by *Travel & Leisure* magazine and America Online, subscribers named San Antonio one of the top-five Friendliest Cities in the United States and also rated this beautiful city one of the top-five Best Cities to Visit in the Spring; and

WHEREAS, San Antonio is home to many of the state's sporting, culinary, and political treasures, including the Texas Open, the San Antonio Spurs, the MasterCard Alamo Bowl, the Dallas Cowboy's Training Camp, Tex-Mex food, the "puffy taco," and our United States Senator, John Cornyn, in addition to the San Antonio state and congressional legislative delegation who call this historic city home; and

WHEREAS, Noted Texas historian and journalist Frank Tolbert once said, "Every Texan has two homes, his own and San Antonio," because of the city's friendly people, distinct and beautiful multicultural heritage, and its warm hospitality; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby recognize April 1, 2003, as San Antonio Legislative Day and extend sincere appreciation and best wishes

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to all who attend this event at the State Capitol; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the citizens of San Antonio as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Wentworth
Madla
Zaffirini
Van de Putte

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 1, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate