

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 154

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join the citizens of El Paso in celebrating the 100th anniversary of Union Depot; and

WHEREAS, When the Union Depot passenger station was completed in 1906, El Paso was home to six major railroads; it was the first passenger train station to be built in the United States for international railway traffic; and

WHEREAS, Some 22 trains arrived and departed daily, and with adjacent hotels, bars, and restaurants, the area was a hub of activity; railroad traffic peaked during World War II with 30 trains arriving and departing daily; and

WHEREAS, By the 1960s, railroad traffic had declined as travel by airplane and automobile became more convenient; El Paso Union Passenger Depot Company ceased its operations at the depot in 1974 and soon abandoned the property; and

WHEREAS, The City of El Paso purchased Union Depot in 1974 and moved its Sun Metro Transit operations into the building; the city obtained funding through federal, state, and local grants and began renovating the depot in 1982; the restoration included tile floors, Italian marble pillars, and arched ceilings, in keeping with the original Victorian design; and

WHEREAS, Union Depot is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is recognized by the Texas Historical Commission; although Amtrak is the only railroad that remains at the depot, the building stands today much as it did in 1906, with the original bell tower reigning over El Paso downtown area with all its majesty; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the historical gem in El Paso that is Union Depot on the occasion of its 100th anniversary; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared as a memento of this special occasion.

Shapleigh

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 8, 2006.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate