

By: Strama

H.R. No. 244

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Texas Historical Commission has designated  
2 Santa Maria Cemetery in Pflugerville a Historic Texas Cemetery, and  
3 the official marker, which is being dedicated on February 12, 2005,  
4 will stand as an enduring symbol of the local citizenry's  
5 commitment to preserving our state's rich history; and

6           WHEREAS, Santa Maria Cemetery was established in 1924 by a  
7 group of Mexican families who had traveled north to escape the  
8 Mexican Revolution of 1910; and

9           WHEREAS, While awaiting the outcome of the war, the Mexican  
10 expatriates found work on local farms, but were unable to obtain  
11 burial insurance; to defer funeral expenses, the families formed a  
12 local chapter of the Sociedad de Agricultores Mariano Escobedo, an  
13 organization created to help Mexicans residing in the United  
14 States; through fund-raisers and donations, the chapter collected  
15 \$100 and purchased an acre of property for the cemetery from local  
16 landowner LaRue Noton; and

17           WHEREAS, Most of those original families remained in the  
18 region, and today, many of the names on the graves of Santa Maria  
19 Cemetery continue to be prominent in Central Texas; the cemetery  
20 was originally called San Camilo in honor of Camilo Mercado, the  
21 first person to be buried there, but it was renamed Santa Maria in  
22 1965; and

23           WHEREAS, The unique and colorful heritage of the Lone Star  
24 State is a vital part of our shared culture as Texans, and the

1 preservation of the state's historic sites is a worthy endeavor,  
2 deserving of the highest praise and recognition; now, therefore, be  
3 it

4         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
5 Legislature hereby commemorate the dedication of Santa Maria  
6 Cemetery in Pflugerville as a Historic Texas Cemetery and commend  
7 area residents and the Texas Historical Commission for preserving  
8 this important landmark.