

By: Gattis

H.R. No. 384

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The oldest trail in Texas, El Camino Real de los  
2 Tejas, was officially designated a National Historic Trail on  
3 October 18, 2004, when President George W. Bush signed into law the  
4 El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Act; and

5           WHEREAS, Stretching nearly 2,600 miles from the Rio Grande  
6 near Eagle Pass to Natchitoches, Louisiana, El Camino Real dates  
7 back more than 300 years to the adventures of Spanish explorers in  
8 the late 17th century; for many years, the historical corridor  
9 served as a path for missionaries, explorers, traders, armies,  
10 Native Americans, and tens of thousands of Anglos seeking to settle  
11 in the Texas region; and

12           WHEREAS, El Camino Real de los Tejas, or the Royal Road to the  
13 Tejas, also served as a strategic corridor during America's War of  
14 Independence as well as during the Texas Revolution, when it served  
15 as the main transportation route for Mexican and Texian armies and a  
16 pathway for such legendary Texas heroes as Davy Crockett and Sam  
17 Houston; and

18           WHEREAS, Milam County is commemorating the designation of the  
19 El Camino Real as a National Historic Trail with a two-day event,  
20 "Celebrate Indians, Explorers, Missionaries, and Settlers to El  
21 Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail," in April 2005;  
22 and

23           WHEREAS, A tourism workshop will be held in Rockdale on April  
24 22 in coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation,

1 Texas Historical Commission, Texas Department of Agriculture,  
2 Office of the Governor Division of Economic Development and  
3 Tourism, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Texas Commission  
4 on the Arts; and

5 WHEREAS, On April 23, a symposium will be held at the Cameron  
6 Schools Performing Arts Center in Cameron with a roster of  
7 distinguished speakers which includes, to name a few, Liz  
8 Carpenter, former press secretary to Lady Bird Johnson; the  
9 Honorable Lindy Boggs, former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican; and a  
10 representative from the National Parks Service; and

11 WHEREAS, The designation of El Camino Real as a National  
12 Historic Trail recognizes the importance of the trail in the  
13 history of our state and nation, and it is most appropriate on  
14 Heritage Day to acknowledge the efforts of those dedicated citizens  
15 of Milam County who are presenting the workshop and symposium  
16 commemorating this important event; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
18 Legislature hereby recognize February 16, 2005, as Heritage Day and  
19 applaud the valued citizens of Milam County for their important  
20 work toward preserving the history of our great state.