

By: Pickett

H.R. No. 459

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas House of Representatives is pleased to
2 recognize February 23 and 24, 2005, as El Paso Days at the State
3 Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Located in the westernmost tip of the state, the
5 city of El Paso combines a modern metropolis with the charm born of
6 its Spanish origins; the area was named El Paso by the Spanish
7 conquistador, Don Juan de Onate, because of the shallow place in the
8 river where the colonists crossed en route to Santa Fe, New Mexico;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The arrival of the railroads in 1881 ushered in an
11 era of prosperity, and El Paso became a flourishing frontier
12 community that has developed into a significant industrial,
13 commercial, and transportation city; and

14 WHEREAS, Today, semitrailers, trains, and planes transport
15 manufactured goods through the border cities at the Pass, just as
16 Spanish traders did in the 16th century when they guided ox-drawn
17 carts along the Camino Real from Mexico City to Santa Fe; and

18 WHEREAS, With a population of over a half million people, El
19 Paso is the state's fifth largest city and the nation's 23rd
20 largest; the largest American city on the 2,000-mile United
21 States-Mexico border, it lies across the Rio Grande north of Ciudad
22 Juarez, Mexico's fifth largest city, with a population of over a
23 million people; and

24 WHEREAS, Nearby Fort Bliss, which celebrated its 150th

1 anniversary in 1998, is home to the United States Army's air defense
2 training center and plays a significant role in the community; and

3 WHEREAS, El Paso is a vibrant, bilingual community, and many
4 of its residents are fluent in Spanish; its residents enjoy a
5 thriving fine arts community, exemplary educational institutions,
6 and many cultural and historical resources and museums; and

7 WHEREAS, El Paso Days at the State Capitol provide an
8 opportunity for friends and families to honor El Paso and its rich
9 heritage, which today is enjoyed by residents and vacationers of
10 all ages; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
12 Legislature hereby recognize February 23 and 24, 2005, as El Paso
13 Days at the State Capitol and join the citizens of this historical
14 and vibrant region in paying tribute to this wonderful city.