

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, After an extensive program of restoration, the Val  
2 Verde County Courthouse in Del Rio was rededicated on July 23, 2004;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, Originally built in the Victorian style, the  
5 courthouse was completed in 1887, two years after the county was  
6 established; noted Texas architects Jacob L. Larmour and Arthur O.  
7 Watson designed the limestone structure, which is the oldest extant  
8 example of their courthouse commissions; and

9           WHEREAS, In 1915, another prominent Texas architect, Atlee B.  
10 Ayers, was hired to repair and modify the building; Mr. Ayers  
11 removed most of the ornate detailing and altered the interior and  
12 exterior in ways that produced a neoclassical appearance; and

13           WHEREAS, By the late 20th century, the courthouse had  
14 deteriorated to a dangerous degree, and in 1995 it was listed as one  
15 of the 10 most endangered historic properties in the state; between  
16 1995 and 2000, the building underwent interior restoration at a  
17 cost of \$1.5 million, but the future of the courthouse remained in  
18 doubt, owing to the poor condition of the exterior masonry and other  
19 damage; and

20           WHEREAS, With a \$2.5 million grant from the Texas Historical  
21 Commission, through its Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation  
22 Program, another extensive plan of restoration was undertaken to  
23 make the building wholly sound; the new work included the repair and  
24 replacement of stone, the pointing of mortar joints, and the

1 rebuilding of the porches at all four entrances, as well as the  
2 reconfiguration of the courtroom in accordance with its 1915  
3 arrangement; and

4 WHEREAS, One of the best remaining examples of 19th century  
5 architecture in the region, the Val Verde County Courthouse is  
6 listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and its  
7 preservation marks a distinct contribution to the rich social and  
8 cultural heritage of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
10 Legislature hereby congratulate the citizens of Val Verde County on  
11 the completed restoration of their handsome courthouse and extend  
12 to all those involved in that important work sincere appreciation.

Gallego

Craddick	Geren	Menendez
Allen of Harris	Giddings	Merritt
Allen of Dallas	Gonzales	Miller
Alonzo	Gonzalez Toureilles	Moreno of Harris
Anchia	Goodman	Moreno of El Paso
Anderson	Goolsby	Morrison
Bailey	Griggs	Mowery
Baxter	Grusendorf	Naishtat
Berman	Guillen	Nixon
Blake	Haggerty	Noriega
Bohac	Hamilton	Oliveira
Bonnen	Hamric	Olivo
Branch	Hardcastle	Orr
Brown of Kaufman	Harper-Brown	Otto
Brown of Brazos	Hartnett	Paxton
Burnam	Hegar	Pena
Callegari	Herrero	Phillips
Campbell	Hilderbran	Pickett
Casteel	Hill	Pitts
Castro	Hochberg	Puente
Chavez	Hodge	Quintanilla
Chisum	Homer	Raymond
Coleman	Hope	Reyna
Cook of Navarro	Hopson	Riddle
Cook of Colorado	Howard	Ritter
Corte	Hughes	Rodriguez
Crabb	Hunter	Rose
Crownover	Hupp	Seaman
Davis of Harris	Isett	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Dallas	Jackson	Smith of Harris
Dawson	Jones of Lubbock	Smithee
Delisi	Jones of Dallas	Solis
Denny	Keel	Solomons
Deshotel	Keffer of Dallas	Strama
Driver	Keffer of Eastland	Straus
Dukes	King of Parker	Swinford
Dunnam	King of Zavala	Talton
Dutton	Kolkhorst	Taylor
Edwards	Krusee	Thompson
Eiland	Kuempel	Truitt
Eissler	Laney	Turner
Elkins	Laubenberg	Uresti
Escobar	Leibowitz	Van Arsdale
Farabee	Luna	Veasey
Farrar	Madden	Villarreal
Flores	Martinez	Vo
Flynn	Martinez Fischer	West
Frost	McCall	Wong
Gallego	McClendon	Woolley
Gattis	McReynolds	Zedler

H.R. No. 655

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 655 was adopted by the House on March 17, 2005, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House