

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 655

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.