

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 175**

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize February 23 and 24, 2005, as El Paso Days at the State Capitol; and

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, Nearby Fort Bliss, which celebrated its 150th anniversary in 1998, is home to the United States Army's air defense training center and plays a significant role in the community; and

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

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby recognize February 23 and 24, 2005, as El Paso Days at the State Capitol and join citizens of this historical and vibrant region in paying tribute to this wonderful city; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared as a memento of this special occasion.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 23, 2005.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate