

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 718

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join members of De Maria de la Luz, Incorporated, and the Travis County Historical Commission on the occasion of the dedication of a historical marker designating Cementerio Mexicano de Maria de la Luz as a Texas Historic Cemetery by the Texas Historical Commission; and

WHEREAS, The dedication ceremony will be held on May 1, 2005, for the cemetery, which is located at 7200 Circle S Road in Austin; the cemetery dates to 1912, when, it is said, a family was traveling southward away from Austin with a sick child; the child, whose name was Maria de la Luz, died, and a local landowner granted permission for the family to bury their child nearby; and

WHEREAS, What is known for certain is that on August 3, 1912, three men, Arcidio Donley, Antonio C. Rodriguez, and Severiano Galvan, purchased one acre of land from W. G. Bell for use as a Mexican cemetery; these men, their descendants, and family members would look after the modest burial ground; and

WHEREAS, In the late 1940s, a group of young men who were the caretakers gathered to discuss cleaning the cemetery grounds, which were overgrown with tall grass and weeds; they made the unfortunate decision to have a controlled burn to clear the site, and the fire got away from them and consumed the wooden crosses that marked many grave sites; and

WHEREAS, The cemetery remained an old country cemetery until the 1970s when Austin began growing south of Stassney Lane; in 2002, an apartment complex was built on the west and south boundaries of the cemetery; the developer erected an iron fence, and a number of grave markers were lost or damaged in the process; and

WHEREAS, Descendants and future plot owners gathered to discuss the degrading of the site and formed De Maria de la Luz, Incorporated, a nonprofit plot owners association; because of their hard work, the cemetery is now a clean and safe place for families to pay their respects and to honor those who came before them; and

WHEREAS, The designation of Cementerio Mexicano de Maria de la Luz as a Texas Historic Cemetery will assure that the cemetery will be maintained for future generations and for all citizens of Texas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby commend all involved with the preservation of Cementerio Mexicano de Maria de la Luz for their work on this project and extend best wishes to all attending the dedication of the Texas Historic Cemetery Marker; and, be it further

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RESOLVED, That a copy of the Resolution be prepared as a memento of this special day.

Barrientos

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 29, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate