

By: Chavez

H.R. No. 267

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of El Paso are gathering at the
2 State Capitol on February 7, 2007, to celebrate El Paso Day, and the
3 event provides a perfect occasion to recognize the dynamism of this
4 great Texas city; and

5 WHEREAS, Anchoring the far west corner of the state, where
6 the United States and Mexico come together, El Paso boasts a
7 colorful history informed by the mingling of many cultures and
8 customs, each of which has contributed greatly to the city's status
9 as a diverse and thriving international metropolis; and

10 WHEREAS, Native Americans dwelt for centuries in this harsh
11 desert beside the Rio Grande; in 1581 members of the
12 Rodriguez-Sanchez expedition named a pass between two mountain
13 ranges El Paso del Norte, and the first permanent Spanish colony was
14 founded near present-day San Elizario by Juan de Onate in 1598; and

15 WHEREAS, For the next two centuries, El Paso remained part of
16 the Spanish empire, and then, after 1821, part of Mexico; the
17 complex community of Europeans, mestizos, and Indians along the Rio
18 Grande became an important junction on the Camino Real; and

19 WHEREAS, After the end of the Mexican-American War in 1848,
20 El Paso became a part of the United States, leading to the growth of
21 Anglo settlements along the north bank of the Rio Grande and laying
22 the foundations for the multicultural character of the city; and

23 WHEREAS, El Paso welcomed the arrival of the railroad in
24 1881, and a dusty village of a few hundred was transformed into a

1 western boomtown of 10,000; during this lively era, El Paso was
2 known as the "Six Shooter Capital," teeming with gamblers,
3 gunfighters, and cattlemen, including such famous figures as lawman
4 Pat Garrett and outlaw John Wesley Hardin; and

5 WHEREAS, By the early 20th century reform-minded citizens had
6 curbed much of El Paso's wildness; over 77,000 individuals called
7 El Paso home by 1925, and as the nation's third fastest growing
8 metropolitan area, it now has more than 700,000 residents; its
9 special relationship with Ciudad Juarez, its sister city across the
10 Rio Grande, gives the two cities the distinction of being one of the
11 largest population centers on any international border in the
12 world; and

13 WHEREAS, Today, El Paso is the focal point of an annual \$20
14 billion in trade between the United States and Mexico; long known as
15 the headquarters of such famous brands as Tony Lama Boots, its
16 diverse economy includes agriculture, textiles, tourism, the
17 manufacture of cement and other building materials, and the
18 refining of metals and petroleum; and

19 WHEREAS, For over a century the presence of Fort Bliss has
20 contributed to the city's economy and its proud military tradition;
21 and Fort Bliss will receive over 49,000 troops, spouses and
22 children by 2011; and

23 WHEREAS, The true story of the 1966 Texas Western College
24 basketball team, featuring the first-ever all-black starting
25 line-up in college athletic history, led by the legendary Coach Don
26 "The Bear" Haskins, won the 1966 NCAA Men's Division I Basketball
27 Championship; their achievement broke down the racial barriers in

1 sports and inspired the movie "Glory Road"; and

2 WHEREAS, The city provides myriad opportunities for higher
3 education through The University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso
4 Community College, and the El Paso campus of Howard Payne
5 University; further bolstering the city's appeal are cultural
6 attractions, such as the El Paso Museum of Art, the El Paso Symphony
7 Orchestra, the El Paso Museum of History, and the Fort Bliss Museum,
8 as well as professional sporting teams the El Paso Diablos baseball
9 team and the El Paso Patriots soccer team; and

10 WHEREAS, This lively city has been the birthplace and home to
11 many remarkable Americans, including Supreme Court justice Sandra
12 Day O'Connor; *Star Trek* creator Gene Roddenberry; actors Gilbert
13 Roland, Debbie Reynolds, and Thomas Haden Church; and singers Phil
14 Ochs, Bobby Fuller, and Florencia Bisenita de Casillas Martinez
15 Cardona, better known as Vikki Carr; and

16 WHEREAS, Joining the delegation today are proud members of
17 the Tigua tribe of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo, who have established
18 themselves as important contributors to the economy of El Paso,
19 owning and operating tribal businesses that benefit its members,
20 its business partners, and the people of El Paso; this afternoon
21 tribal members will perform an ancient dance in the Capitol
22 rotunda, sharing with the house an important part of their cultural
23 heritage; and

24 WHEREAS, Living in a unique setting where urban vivacity
25 meets the severe beauty of the desert, the citizens of El Paso may
26 take great pride in the knowledge that their community has
27 contributed immeasurably to the vitality of the Lone Star State;

1 now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
3 Legislature hereby recognize February 7, 2007, as El Paso Day at the
4 State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best
5 wishes for an enjoyable and memorable visit to Austin.