

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 1308

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For more than 10 years, the volunteer organization
2 Friends of Big Bend National Park has supported, promoted, and
3 raised funds for this beloved Texas landmark; and

4 WHEREAS, From the spectacular Boquillas and Santa Elena
5 Canyons of the Rio Grande to the pinyon, oak, and juniper-covered
6 slopes of the Chisos Mountains to the austere beauty of the
7 Chihuahuan Desert, Big Bend National Park is a treasure of the Lone
8 Star State and one of the jewels of the National Park system;
9 encompassing over 800,000 acres, this striking landscape draws more
10 than 300,000 visitors each year, offering peerless opportunities
11 for day hikes, backcountry exploring and camping, birding, and
12 sightseeing; and

13 WHEREAS, In recent years, many nonprofit grassroots
14 organizations have been formed across the country to promote and
15 protect individual national parks; when longtime Big Bend visitors
16 Lori Palmer and Russ Jewert discovered in 1995 there was no such
17 group for Big Bend, they met with park staff and began a process
18 that culminated with the incorporation of the Friends of Big Bend
19 National Park in 1996; and

20 WHEREAS, Today the 19 members of the FBBNP board of directors
21 work in partnership with the National Park Service to support and
22 preserve Big Bend and to enhance the experience of the park's
23 visitors; through the years, the organization has donated \$575,000
24 to the park for trail maintenance, wildlife research projects, air

1 and water quality measuring equipment, and the expansion and
2 renovation of exhibits at the Panther Junction Visitor Center; and

3 WHEREAS, Supporting its initiatives through membership dues
4 and the sale of Big Bend National Park specialty Texas license
5 plates, the group also sponsors two popular annual fund-raising
6 events, the Big Bend Ultra Run and the Ride for Trails Motorcycle
7 Rally; and

8 WHEREAS, The Friends of Big Bend National Park have performed
9 an invaluable service through their efforts to maintain and protect
10 this magnificent natural resource for the continued enjoyment of
11 current and future generations; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
13 Legislature hereby honor the members of the Friends of Big Bend
14 National Park for their invaluable contributions to Big Bend and
15 extend to them best wishes for continued success with their
16 important work; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for the organization as an expression of high regard by the
19 Texas House of Representatives.