

By: Pickett

H.R. No. 2638

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, One of the icons of El Paso, the historic steam  
2 engine known as the El Paso & Southwestern Locomotive No. 1 is  
3 celebrating its sesquicentennial in 2007; and

4           WHEREAS, Built by Breese Kneeland & Company at the New York  
5 Locomotive Works of Jersey City in 1857, EP&SW No. 1 is one of the  
6 few survivors of the steam railroading era; the oldest of its type  
7 west of the Mississippi River, it is the only Breese Kneeland engine  
8 still in existence; and

9           WHEREAS, Classic steam locomotives like Old Engine No. 1 were  
10 in use when El Paso was first connected by rail to California, the  
11 Midwest, and New Orleans, and they played an important role in  
12 opening the region to trade, industry, and tourism; and

13           WHEREAS, Originally known as "Spring Green," this legendary  
14 locomotive first worked in Wisconsin for the Milwaukee Railroad; it  
15 arrived in the Southwest in 1889, where it was designated the No. 1  
16 by the El Paso & Southwestern Railroad, which ran between Arizona,  
17 New Mexico, and El Paso; Engine No. 1 served the line between Bisbee  
18 and Fairbank, Arizona; and

19           WHEREAS, Retired by the railroad in 1903, the locomotive was  
20 restored and donated in 1909 to the City of El Paso, which put it on  
21 display at the intersection of Stanton and Franklin Streets; in  
22 1939 it was featured in the MGM movie, *Let Freedom Ring*, and in 1960  
23 the engine was donated to The University of Texas at El Paso, where  
24 it was a landmark on campus for more than 40 years; and

1           WHEREAS, Restored and refurbished, the engine is now the  
2 centerpiece of the Railroad and Transportation Museum in downtown  
3 El Paso; drawing visitors from all over the Southwest, EP&SW No. 1  
4 is both a living testament to El Paso's colorful past and a national  
5 treasure; now, therefore, be it

6           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
7 Legislature hereby recognize the 150th anniversary of the El Paso &  
8 Southwestern Locomotive No. 1 and extend to all those associated  
9 with the Railroad and Transportation Museum of El Paso best wishes  
10 for a happy sesquicentennial celebration; and, be it further

11           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
12 prepared for the museum as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
13 House of Representatives.