

By: Pena

H.R. No. 363

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud citizens of Edinburg organized a stellar,
2 weeklong celebration in October 2008 to commemorate the 100th
3 anniversary of their town's becoming the county seat of Hidalgo
4 County; and

5 WHEREAS, When the county was organized in 1852, a community
6 situated on the Rio Grande and previously known as La Habitacion was
7 selected as the original county seat; the town later took the name
8 Hidalgo; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1908, in a controversial election, voters chose
10 to move the county seat to the newly established community of
11 Chapin, near the center of the county; the matter was effectively
12 settled in the early morning hours of October 14, 1908, when local
13 political leaders hauled the county records under armed guard from
14 Hidalgo to Chapin; the county commissioners convened in Chapin the
15 following month, and the county seat has remained there ever since;
16 in 1911, the town of Chapin was renamed Edinburg; and

17 WHEREAS, Edinburg's centennial festivities began with a
18 Kickoff Party at the Museum of South Texas History on October 5,
19 2008; subsequent events included a large gathering at the Edinburg
20 Municipal Park, a proclamation reading at the new city hall, a day
21 honoring the Edinburg Consolidated Independent School District, a
22 poetry reading and genealogy seminar at the Dustin Michael Sekula
23 Memorial Library, and a ceremony at the former Southern Pacific
24 Railroad Depot re-creating the arrival of the first Southern

1 Pacific train in Edinburg in 1927; and

2 WHEREAS, State Representative Aaron Pena marked the
3 centennial with the planting of a sapling, derived from Austin's
4 historic Treaty Oak, in the County Square, located in downtown
5 Edinburg; the Edinburg representative further participated in the
6 centennial by creating a commemorative poster that featured an
7 artistic rendering of the Edinburg Chamber Depot, together with the
8 memorable phrase "The Edinburg Centennial--One City, One Heritage,
9 One Future"; at the October 10 ceremony at the former Southern
10 Pacific Railroad Depot, Representative Pena presented the Edinburg
11 Chamber of Commerce and the City of Edinburg with a framed map of
12 the original plat of the city; and

13 WHEREAS, The outstanding success of this celebratory week
14 reflected the hard work of many public-spirited individuals,
15 together with the support of the Museum of South Texas History,
16 Sekula Memorial Library, Edinburg Chamber of Commerce, Edinburg
17 Volunteer Fire Department, City of Edinburg, Edinburg Economic
18 Development Corporation, and ECISD, as well as a number of area
19 businesses and organizations; and

20 WHEREAS, The people of Edinburg reside in one of the foremost
21 urban centers in the Texas borderlands, and they have fittingly
22 paid tribute to their achievements over the past 100 years, even as
23 they look forward to the myriad possibilities that lie ahead; now,
24 therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
26 Legislature hereby recognize October 14, 2008, as the centennial of
27 Edinburg's designation as the seat of Hidalgo County and extend to

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1 all its citizens sincere best wishes as they prepare to inscribe the
2 next chapters of their notable saga.