

By: Pena

H.R. No. 783

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Members of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of
2 America organization are sponsoring the Rio Grande Valley VA
3 Hospital March to San Antonio on March 14-20, 2009, to raise
4 awareness of the need for a VA hospital in the Valley region; and

5 WHEREAS, The second event of its kind, the 250-mile march
6 begins at the Sekula Memorial Library in Edinburg, which was named
7 for the late U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Dustin Michael Sekula, and
8 culminates at the nearest VA hospital, the Audie L. Murphy Memorial
9 Veterans Hospital in San Antonio; the first march, which was
10 organized by America's Last Patrol, took place in November 2005 and
11 helped to revive this long-standing issue; and

12 WHEREAS, Although the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
13 operates several outpatient clinics in the Valley, these facilities
14 do not offer the full range of services, including testing and
15 therapy, that are available in San Antonio; and

16 WHEREAS, Iraq war veterans Jesus Bocanegra and Rey Leal are
17 coordinating the march, and they expect to be joined by fellow
18 members of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America as well as by
19 veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Operation Desert
20 Storm; and

21 WHEREAS, The health and well-being of veterans in the Rio
22 Grande Valley depend on convenient access to a VA hospital, and it
23 is indeed fitting to recognize the outstanding efforts of the
24 members of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America in working to

1 achieve this noble goal; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
3 Legislature hereby commemorate the Rio Grande Valley VA Hospital
4 March to San Antonio and extend to all those involved sincere best
5 wishes for a safe and successful event.