

By: Chavez

H.R. No. 2413

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Thomas Jefferson High School in El Paso is
2 celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2009; and

3 WHEREAS, The first high school to be built in the eastern part
4 of El Paso, Jefferson opened its doors on September 6, 1949; J. M.
5 Whitaker, the first principal, and the Parent Teacher Association
6 chose the school colors, silver and scarlet, and mascot, the silver
7 fox, so that the football and band uniforms could be ready by the
8 start of the fall semester; music for the school song and fight song
9 was composed by Roy Wilson, the band director, and the lyrics for
10 both songs were written by his wife; and

11 WHEREAS, Departments at the new school included business,
12 English, Spanish, mechanical drawing, home economics, physical
13 education, art, band, mathematics, journalism, agriculture, social
14 studies, manual training, and distributive education; and

15 WHEREAS, A wide array of extracurricular activities were
16 organized during the first few years, ranging from the Junior
17 Historians, the Pan American club, and the Junior Nurses Aid Corps
18 to the "J" Club, for students who lettered in sports, the Officers
19 Club, for members of JROTC, and theater, science, and radio
20 organizations; and

21 WHEREAS, The first school year saw the establishment of
22 student government, the yearbook, named *El Capitan*, after the
23 highest peak in Texas, and the student paper, the *Branding Iron*,
24 along with such traditions as the junior and senior proms and the

1 selection of a football queen, JROTC queen, and basketball
2 sweetheart; and

3 WHEREAS, Jefferson sports got off to a roaring start in
4 1949-1950 with the B basketball team winning the school's first
5 championship and the baseball team taking second place in the
6 district; during the school's second year, Jefferson claimed
7 district championships in baseball, basketball, and golf;
8 intramural competition was also organized early on for both male
9 and female students; and

10 WHEREAS, Since graduating its first class of 21 seniors in
11 1950, this venerable school has educated thousands of El Paso
12 students and provided a strong academic foundation on which they
13 could build rewarding and fulfilling lives; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
15 Legislature hereby commemorate the 60th anniversary of the opening
16 of Thomas Jefferson High School and extend to all those associated
17 with the school sincere best wishes for continued success in all
18 their endeavors; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for Thomas Jefferson High School as an expression of high
21 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.