

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 131**

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the Witte Museum of San Antonio on the grand occasion of its 85th anniversary; and

**WHEREAS**, Now a cultural icon and one of the best-known museums in the state, the Witte Museum is the result of a complex series of events that led to its much-heralded opening in 1926; and

**WHEREAS**, In the early 20th century, San Antonio lacked a public museum, and it was due to a small group of individuals that the city was finally blessed with what would become known as The Witte; and

**WHEREAS**, Inspired by a high school teacher named Ellen Schulz and several prominent clubwomen, including Lena McAllister and Ethel Tunstall Drought, who envisioned a public museum for all San Antonians, the community contributed \$6,200 to purchase H. P. Attwater's large and renowned natural history collection and install it at Main Avenue High School in 1923; and

**WHEREAS**, As the Attwater Collection grew in popularity and size, Ellen Schulz visited Mayor John Tobin to enlist the city's support for a larger, formal museum; in 1925, the city approved \$25,000 for construction of a building for the museum, and ground was broken in San Pedro Park; and

**WHEREAS**, Two days after ground was broken, local businessman Alfred G. Witte died, and it was discovered that he had bequeathed \$65,000 to the City of San Antonio for the construction of a museum of art, science, and natural history to be located in Brackenridge Park and named for his parents; due to his generous gift to the city, construction was halted at San

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Pedro Park within a few weeks and shifted to Brackenridge Park with an enlarged design; less than one year later, at a grand community celebration on October 8, 1926, the Witte Memorial Museum opened its doors to the public; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby extend congratulations and best wishes to all associated with the Witte Museum on the occasion of its 85th anniversary; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this special occasion.

Van de Putte

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on June 28, 2011.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate