

By: Pena

H.R. No. 221

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud alumni, students, administrators, and
2 trustees are gathering in Austin on January 27, 2011, to celebrate
3 The University of Texas-Pan American Day at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Located in Edinburg, The University of Texas-Pan
5 American is the 10th largest of the state's public universities,
6 with an enrollment of 18,744 students at the beginning of the
7 2010-2011 school year; the institution was founded as a two-year
8 community college in 1927, originally consisting of a single
9 building and 200 learners, and over the ensuing decades it grew to
10 become a four-year college and then a university; it joined The
11 University of Texas System in 1989; and

12 WHEREAS, In the 84 years since its creation, The University
13 of Texas-Pan American has conferred more than 50,400 bachelor's
14 degrees, 10,800 master's degrees, and 100 doctoral degrees; in
15 addition, it ranks second in the nation in the number of bachelor's
16 degrees and fourth in the number of master's degrees awarded to
17 Hispanic students; the institution was named by *Forbes* magazine as
18 the 32nd best public college in the United States in 2009, ranking
19 third among schools in Texas; and

20 WHEREAS, The University of Texas-Pan American offers 57
21 bachelor's, 57 master's, and 5 doctoral or cooperative doctoral
22 programs, plus the only physician-assistant program outside a
23 medical school in Texas; students also benefit from a rich social
24 environment that includes such traditions as the annual Carnival of

1 the Great Pumpkin on Halloween, Midnight Madness at the start of
2 each basketball season, and Homecoming, which includes a battle of
3 the bands, the Bronc Olympics, a tailgate party and pep rally, and a
4 men's basketball game as part of a week's worth of special
5 festivities; and

6 WHEREAS, Performing in the Capitol Rotunda on The University
7 of Texas-Pan American Day is the university's renowned musical
8 group Mariachi Aztlan; the band has won more than 10 first-place
9 awards at national mariachi competitions and has been recognized
10 for its achievements in promoting Hispanic culture; in the past
11 year alone, Mariachi Aztlan was named Grand Champions of the
12 Mariachi Spectacular de Albuquerque, performed in the premiere of
13 the Houston Grand Opera production of *To Cross the Face of the Moon*
14 (*Cruzar la Cara de la Luna*), and played for President Barack Obama;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The University of Texas-Pan American has
17 established itself as a preeminent institution of higher education,
18 and residents of Texas are fortunate to have access to this
19 exceptional resource; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
21 Legislature hereby recognize January 27, 2011, as The University of
22 Texas-Pan American Day at the State Capitol and commend all those
23 associated with the university for their contributions to the Lone
24 Star State; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for The University of Texas-Pan American as an expression
27 of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.