

By: Pickett

H.R. No. 284

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Proud residents of El Paso are gathering at the  
2 State Capitol on February 16 and 17, 2011, to celebrate El Paso  
3 Days, and the event provides a perfect occasion to recognize the  
4 dynamism of this great Texas city; and

5           WHEREAS, Located in the westernmost tip of the state, the  
6 city of El Paso combines a modern metropolis with the charm born of  
7 its Spanish origins; the area was named El Paso by the Spanish  
8 conquistador Don Juan de Onate because of the shallow place in the  
9 river where the colonists crossed en route to Santa Fe, New Mexico;  
10 and

11           WHEREAS, The arrival of the railroads in 1881 ushered in an  
12 era of prosperity, and El Paso became a flourishing frontier  
13 community that has developed into a significant industrial,  
14 commercial, and transportation city; and

15           WHEREAS, Today, trucks, trains, and planes transport  
16 manufactured goods through the border cities at the Pass, just as  
17 Spanish traders did in the 16th century when they guided ox-drawn  
18 carts along the Camino Real from Mexico City to Santa Fe; and

19           WHEREAS, With a population of nearly 700,000, El Paso is the  
20 largest American city on the 2,000-mile United States-Mexico  
21 border; it lies across the Rio Grande north of Ciudad Juarez,  
22 Mexico's fifth-largest city, with a population of over a million;  
23 and

24           WHEREAS, Nearby Fort Bliss, which celebrated its 160th

1 anniversary in 2008, is immersed in the biggest transformation in  
2 its history, with a 300 percent increase in its population  
3 projected by 2012; the base is currently investing \$5 billion in  
4 construction for new, top-of-the-line facilities for incoming  
5 personnel and their families, and it is at the forefront of the U.S.  
6 Army's Transformation plan, as it transitions from a TRADOC to a  
7 FORSCOM installation; and

8         WHEREAS, Named an All-America City in 2010, El Paso is a  
9 vibrant, bilingual community; its residents enjoy a thriving fine  
10 arts community, exemplary educational institutions, and many  
11 cultural and historical resources and museums; and

12         WHEREAS, El Paso Days at the State Capitol provide an  
13 opportunity to honor El Paso and its rich heritage, which today is  
14 enjoyed by residents and vacationers of all ages; now, therefore,  
15 be it

16         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
17 Legislature hereby recognize February 16 and 17, 2011, as El Paso  
18 Days at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation  
19 sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable visit to Austin.