

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Blas Maria Herrera, a soldier and rancher often  
2 called the Paul Revere of the Texas Revolution, earned a place of  
3 honor in the annals of early Texas history; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in San Antonio de Bexar on February 2, 1802, Mr.  
5 Herrera married Maria Antonio Ruiz, the daughter of the prominent  
6 Tejano Jose Francisco Ruiz, on February 3, 1828; and

7           WHEREAS, A militia roster of 1820 lists Mr. Herrera as a  
8 sergeant, and his military skills and knowledge of the Texas  
9 countryside proved valuable when he cast his lot with those seeking  
10 to establish an independent Texas republic; and

11           WHEREAS, While serving under the command of Captain Juan  
12 Nepomuceno Seguin, Mr. Herrera took part in the first major  
13 campaign of the Texas Revolution, the siege of Bexar, in late 1835;  
14 early the next year, Captain Seguin dispatched Mr. Herrera to the  
15 Rio Grande to observe the movement of Mexican troops and to report  
16 any advance they might make on San Antonio; and

17           WHEREAS, When it became apparent that General Antonio Lopez  
18 de Santa Anna was headed with his army in the direction of Bexar,  
19 Mr. Herrera and a fellow scout hastened back to warn the Texan  
20 troops; and

21           WHEREAS, Mr. Herrera then received orders to escort his  
22 father-in-law and his wife's cousin, Jose Antonio Navarro, to the  
23 convention of Texas delegates meeting at Washington-on-the-Brazos,  
24 where the two signed the Texas Declaration of Independence on March

1 2, 1836; according to family lore, Mr. Herrera also conducted  
2 intelligence assignments during the revolution for General Sam  
3 Houston; and

4 WHEREAS, In late 1836, Mr. Herrera was sent by Captain Seguin  
5 to argue against General Felix Huston's order that the citizens of  
6 San Antonio be evacuated and the town burned, and he succeeded in  
7 having the town spared; and

8 WHEREAS, After the revolution, Mr. Herrera continued to be  
9 involved in public life; he served as a justice of the peace and  
10 civic leader in southern Bexar County, where he farmed and ranched  
11 on his family's land near the Paso de las Garzas on the Medina  
12 River, and his home was used as a polling place; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Herrera also served as a Texas Ranger in 1839,  
14 during a campaign against the Comanches; his ranch became the site  
15 of the area's first Catholic church in 1840 and first post office in  
16 1868, as well as a public school in 1872; and

17 WHEREAS, The children of Mr. Herrera and his wife were also  
18 civic minded and engaged in both military and public service; one  
19 descendant, great-grandson John J. Herrera, became a prominent  
20 civil rights attorney and served as national president of the  
21 League of United Latin American Citizens; and

22 WHEREAS, Blas Maria Herrera died on July 9, 1878, and was  
23 buried in the Ruiz-Herrera Cemetery in present-day Von Ormy; in the  
24 1980s, a set of gates on the Herrera Ranch was identified as having  
25 come from one of the San Antonio missions, most likely from San  
26 Antonio de Valero, now known as the Alamo; thanks to the generosity  
27 of Mr. Herrera's descendants, those gates are now on permanent

1 display at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin; and

2 WHEREAS, Deeply devoted to the land of his birth, Blas Maria  
3 Herrera served Texas in many roles over the course of his long and  
4 productive life, and his descendants continue to carry the torch,  
5 to the great benefit of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
7 Legislature hereby honor Blas Maria Herrera for his outstanding  
8 contributions to Texas and recognize his descendants for their  
9 generosity in providing the historic Herrera Gates to the Bob  
10 Bullock Texas State History Museum; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
12 prepared for the Herrera family as an expression of high regard by  
13 the Texas House of Representatives.

Garza

Straus	Gonzales of Williamson	Morrison
Aliseda	Gonzalez	Munoz, Jr.
Allen	Gooden	Murphy
Alonzo	Guillen	Naishtat
Alvarado	Gutierrez	Nash
Anchia	Hamilton	Oliveira
Anderson of Dallas	Hancock	Orr
Anderson of McLennan	Hardcastle	Otto
Aycock	Harless	Parker
Beck	Harper-Brown	Patrick
Berman	Hartnett	Paxton
Bohac	Hernandez Luna	Pena
Bonnen	Hilderbran	Perry
Branch	Hochberg	Phillips
Brown	Hopson	Pickett
Burkett	Howard of Fort Bend	Pitts
Burnam	Howard of Travis	Price
Button	Huberty	Quintanilla
Cain	Hughes	Raymond
Callegari	Hunter	Reynolds
Carter	Isaac	Riddle
Castro	Jackson	Ritter
Chisum	Johnson	Rodriguez
Christian	Keffer	Schwertner
Coleman	King of Parker	Scott
Cook	King of Taylor	Sheets
Craddick	King of Zavala	Sheffield
Creighton	Kleinschmidt	Shelton
Crownover	Kolkhorst	Simpson
Darby	Kuempel	Smith of Harris
Davis of Dallas	Landtroop	Smith of Tarrant
J. Davis of Harris	Larson	Smithee
S. Davis of Harris	Laubenberg	Solomons
Deshotel	Lavender	Strama
Driver	Legler	Taylor of Collin
Dukes	Lewis	Taylor of Galveston
Dutton	Lozano	Thompson
Eiland	Lucio III	Torres
Eissler	Lyne	Truitt
Elkins	Madden	Turner
Farias	Mallory Caraway	Veasey
Farrar	Margo	Villarreal
Fletcher	Marquez	Vo
Flynn	Martinez	Walle
Frullo	Martinez Fischer	Weber
Gallego	McClendon	White
Garza	Menendez	Woolley
Geren	Miles	Workman
Giddings	Miller of Comal	Zedler
Gonzales of Hidalgo	Miller of Erath	Zerwas

H.R. No. 494

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 494 was adopted by the House on February 22, 2011, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House