

By: Rodriguez

H.R. No. 1104

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, From the colonial era to the present day, Texas has
2 derived great benefits from its Tejano population, and the
3 innumerable contributions made by this state's residents of
4 Hispanic heritage are indeed deserving of special recognition; and

5 WHEREAS, The date of April 6 has special meaning for Latinos
6 in Texas; on that day in the year 1813, Jose Bernardo Maximiliano
7 Gutierrez de Lara proclaimed the independence of Texas from Spanish
8 rule; his declaration came after the military group he helped lead,
9 the Gutierrez-Magee Expedition, had seized San Antonio from
10 royalist forces; the revolutionary contingent was made up of many
11 volunteers of several different ethnicities, including Hispanics,
12 Native Americans, and Anglos; occurring more than two decades
13 before the better-known Texas Revolution of 1836, this action was
14 an important pioneering effort in the struggle to bring republican
15 government to Texas; and

16 WHEREAS, A few months after independence was proclaimed,
17 these early revolutionaries were forced to defend their newly
18 liberated land; on August 18, 1813, proudly flying their emerald
19 green flag, they marched out to meet Spanish forces south of San
20 Antonio in the Battle of Medina, considered to be the bloodiest
21 engagement ever fought on Texas soil, with more than 1,300 men
22 believed to have been killed; the vast majority of the casualties
23 were suffered by the republican forces, who were greatly
24 outnumbered by the royalist army, and this battlefield defeat

1 signaled the end of the independent state that had been
2 established; and

3 WHEREAS, This often-overlooked chapter of Texas history
4 illustrates the vital contributions that Tejanos have made to the
5 development of our state; by commemorating the significance of
6 April 6, 1813, we justly honor the essential role that Hispanics
7 have played in our society through the centuries; now, therefore,
8 be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
10 Legislature hereby recognize April 6, 2011, as Tejano Independence
11 Day and encourage all Texans to reflect on the state's rich and
12 vibrant Latino heritage.