

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Henry Kellen of El Paso survived the Holocaust and
2 has built on his experiences to create the El Paso Holocaust Museum
3 and Study Center; and

4 WHEREAS, Henry Kellen was born Heniek Kacenelembogen in Lodz,
5 Poland, in 1915; after completing university studies in France and
6 graduating with a degree in mechanical engineering in 1938, he
7 settled in Kaunas, Lithuania; following the outbreak of World War
8 II, the area was seized by the Soviet Union and then, in turn, by
9 Nazi Germany in June 1941; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Kellen and all other Jews from the town of Kaunas
11 were forced to relocate to the Kovno Ghetto; over the next several
12 years, the Nazis reduced the population of the ghetto by means of
13 deportations to work and death camps as well as mass executions;
14 only 1 in 10 Jews in Lithuania survived the Holocaust; and

15 WHEREAS, Those in the Kovno Ghetto tried to maintain normalcy
16 as best they could; schools were operated in defiance of Nazi orders
17 and some individuals, such as Mr. Kellen and his wife, Julia, got
18 married while confined there; in March 1944, Mr. Kellen witnessed
19 the *kinderaktion*, during which the Nazis rounded up and killed
20 hundreds of babies and children and Mr. Kellen's seven-year-old
21 nephew, Jerry, narrowly avoided death; with the ghetto being
22 systematically reduced, Mr. and Mrs. Kellen and Jerry escaped the
23 following month; they were hidden by Christian farmers named
24 Andrius and Maria Urbanas until the Soviet army drove the Nazis from

1 the area; and

2 WHEREAS, After the war, Mr. Kellen settled in El Paso; he and
3 his wife initially vowed not to speak of their past, but, as he
4 entered retirement nearly four decades later, he began to feel an
5 obligation to those who had not survived as he had; with a small
6 corner of borrowed space at the Jewish Community Center, Mr. Kellen
7 began to tell his remarkable story; he met with school, church, and
8 civic groups to discuss his treatment at the hands of the Nazis; his
9 talks proved so popular that it soon became apparent that a
10 dedicated space was needed for a Holocaust museum; and

11 WHEREAS, Through community support, the museum opened its
12 doors in 1994; an electrical fire destroyed the original building
13 in 2001, but the museum continued to operate by visiting schools and
14 using temporary gallery space; the people of El Paso rallied to help
15 raise \$2.5 million for a new facility, which opened in 2008; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2009, El Paso mayor John Cook honored Mr. Kellen
17 with the Conquistador Award, the highest possible accolade that can
18 be given to an El Pasoan who has made exceptional contributions to
19 the city; and

20 WHEREAS, Through the efforts of Henry Kellen, the lessons of
21 the Holocaust--that hatred and bigotry have no place in the human
22 endeavor--are being taught to new generations of young Texans, and
23 his work toward this end has made a lasting and positive difference
24 in the community; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
26 Legislature hereby pay tribute to Henry Kellen for his
27 establishment of the El Paso Holocaust Museum and Study Center and

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1 for his efforts to heighten awareness of this dark chapter in world
2 history among the citizens of El Paso and beyond; and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
4 prepared for Mr. Kellen as an expression of high regard by the Texas
5 House of Representatives.

Gonzalez

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

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1659 was adopted by the House on May 2, 2011, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House