

By: Gonzalez

H.R. No. 1764

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The El Paso Holocaust Museum and Study Center  
2 honored the memory of Holocaust victims and celebrated the  
3 community's Holocaust survivors on May 1, 2011, in conjunction with  
4 National Holocaust Remembrance Week, which began that day; and

5           WHEREAS, Between 1933 and 1945, Nazi Germany carried out the  
6 systematic persecution and annihilation of six million European  
7 Jews, as well as millions of other people, including Roma, Poles,  
8 disabled individuals, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, Soviet  
9 prisoners of war, and political dissidents; and

10           WHEREAS, Since 1980, when the United States Congress  
11 established the Days of Remembrance, Americans have joined together  
12 for Yom HaShoah to reflect on the horrific events that occurred  
13 during those dark years and to educate others and work to create a  
14 more peaceful world; and

15           WHEREAS, At one time, El Paso was home to more than 80 people  
16 who had survived the suffering of the Holocaust; although many have  
17 since died, the residents who remain are among the city's most  
18 treasured citizens; and

19           WHEREAS, These include: Tom Dula, a native of Czechoslovakia  
20 who was helped by non-Jewish farmers; Guy Hauptman, a native of  
21 Belgium who was sheltered by friends, family, and a Christian  
22 orphanage before being reunited with his parents after the war; Mr.  
23 Hauptman's mother, Sara Rozen Hauptman, a native of Poland and a  
24 survivor of Auschwitz-Birkenau and Dachau; David Kaplan, a native

1 of Lithuania who worked in Nazi factories and survived two  
2 concentration camps and two death marches; and El Paso Holocaust  
3 Museum and Study Center founder Henry Kellen, a native of Poland who  
4 escaped the Kovno Ghetto in Lithuania, along with his wife and  
5 nephew, and was hidden by a Christian farmer; and

6 WHEREAS, Additional local survivors are: Samuel Kessel, a  
7 native of Lithuania and a survivor of the Stutthof and Dachau  
8 concentration camps; Irene Osborne, a native of Germany who  
9 survived two concentration camps and later lived with family in  
10 France under a false identity; Albert Rosenberg, a native of  
11 Germany who survived a severe beating before immigrating to the  
12 United States and serving in the military's psychological warfare  
13 division; Erik Saks, a native of Austria who escaped with his family  
14 to Italy and eventually to the United States, where he enlisted in  
15 the army; Charlie Saul, who traveled with his family from Burma,  
16 where his father worked, to Calcutta, India, after Japan invaded  
17 Burma; Tibor Schaechner, a native of Hungary who hid with his mother  
18 and sister in safe houses before being forced into the Budapest  
19 Ghetto; Peter Shugart, also a native of Hungary who survived the  
20 Budapest Ghetto; and Lee Schweitzer, a native of Austria who moved  
21 to Palestine to live with relatives and then immigrated to the  
22 United States, where he was drafted into the army; and

23 WHEREAS, Through their courage to come forward and share  
24 their painful past, these remarkable men and women make El Paso a  
25 better place in which to live, and their stories serve as powerful  
26 reminders to stand firm against all forms of injustice; now,  
27 therefore, be it

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1           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
2 Legislature hereby commemorate the 2011 El Paso Holocaust Museum  
3 and Study Center Yom HaShoah and extend sincere gratitude to all  
4 those associated with the event for their efforts to educate others  
5 about the Holocaust.