

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 243

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Nearby Fort Bliss, which celebrated its 160th anniversary in 2008, is immersed in the biggest transformation in its history, with a 300 percent increase in its population projected by 2012; the base is currently investing \$5 billion in construction for new, top-of-the-line facilities for incoming

personnel and their families, and it is at the forefront of the United States Army's Transformation plan, as it transitions from a TRADOC to a FORSCOM installation; and

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

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

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

Rodriguez, Uresti

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 16, 2011.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate