

By: Marquez

H.R. No. 307

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) will  
2 celebrate its past accomplishments, showcase its present  
3 strengths, and look forward to its future development throughout  
4 2014 as it observes its centennial; and

5           WHEREAS, Established in 1914 with the support of local  
6 residents and business owners, UTEP began as the Texas State School  
7 of Mines and Metallurgy, a small mining school on the site of the  
8 former El Paso Military Institute; in 1916, a fire destroyed the Old  
9 Main building, and the school moved to its current location; at the  
10 request of the wife of Dean S. H. Worrell, the new campus was  
11 constructed to resemble fortresses in the Himalayan kingdom of  
12 Bhutan, and it retains this distinctive style of architecture to  
13 this day; and

14           WHEREAS, The university became the first branch in The  
15 University of Texas System in 1919 and gradually began to encompass  
16 additional areas of study; to better identify its status as a  
17 regional university with an increasing number of liberal arts  
18 programs, it was renamed Texas Western College in 1949; six years  
19 later, it became the first public university in the state to  
20 desegregate its undergraduate program; and

21           WHEREAS, A strong focus on athletics in the 1960s led to the  
22 construction of the Sun Bowl stadium, home to the UTEP Miners  
23 football team as well as the annual Sun Bowl game, and numerous  
24 national championship wins in the decades that followed; perhaps

1 the most famous of these came in 1966, when the men's basketball  
2 team faced the heavily favored Kentucky Wildcats; Coach Don Haskins  
3 started an all-African American lineup, the first time any school  
4 had done so in the finals, and the Miners went on to an upset 72-65  
5 win; and

6 WHEREAS, Now looking to its 100th year, UTEP has seven  
7 academic colleges and an enrollment of more than 22,600 students;  
8 it is a nationally recognized research institution with  
9 expenditures of nearly \$70 million annually to support a broad  
10 array of studies in such areas as drug development, Hispanic health  
11 disparities, nanotechnology, and space exploration; the Texas  
12 Higher Education Coordinating Board has named it one of the state's  
13 emerging Tier One universities, and it was designated as a minority  
14 research center of excellence by the National Science Foundation  
15 and as a doctoral/research intensive institution by the Carnegie  
16 Foundation; and

17 WHEREAS, In addition, UTEP boasts a number of acclaimed  
18 programs designed to equip students with the tools necessary to  
19 succeed professionally; 90 percent of the graduates of its Law  
20 School Preparation Institute are accepted to law school, a figure  
21 well above the national average, and its Medical Professions  
22 Institute has helped make it one of the top universities for Mexican  
23 American graduates accepted to medical school; moreover, its  
24 Executive MBA program attracts professionals from both sides of the  
25 U.S.-Mexico border; and

26 WHEREAS, Over the course of an eventful century, The  
27 University of Texas at El Paso has enriched the lives of countless

1 students while making impressive strides in research and academic  
2 innovation, and in so doing, it has made a positive impact on the  
3 Lone Star State and the world beyond; now, therefore, be it

4         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
5 Legislature hereby honor The University of Texas at El Paso for its  
6 10 decades of outstanding service and extend to the university's  
7 administration, faculty, staff, students, and alumni sincere best  
8 wishes for a successful and memorable centennial celebration; and,  
9 be it further

10         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
11 prepared for The University of Texas at El Paso as an expression of  
12 high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.