

By: Pickett

H.R. No. 369

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Texas House of Representatives is pleased to  
2 recognize February 12 and 13, 2013, as El Paso Days at the State  
3 Capitol; and

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

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

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

18           WHEREAS, With a population of more than 665,000, El Paso is  
19 the state's sixth-largest city and the 19th-largest city in the  
20 United States; it lies on the Rio Grande north of Ciudad Juarez,  
21 Mexico's fifth-largest city, with a population of over a million;  
22 and

23           WHEREAS, Nearby Fort Bliss, which celebrates its 165th  
24 anniversary this year, has just completed the biggest

1 transformation in its history, with a 300 percent increase in its  
2 population since 2005 and an investment of \$5 billion in  
3 construction for new, top-of-the-line facilities for incoming  
4 personnel and their families, including a new billion-dollar  
5 military hospital; at the forefront of the U.S. Army's  
6 Transformation plan, the post has transitioned from a TRADOC to a  
7 FORSCOM installation; and

8       WHEREAS, Dedicated to making their city an even better place  
9 to live and work, El Paso citizens voted in favor of three "quality  
10 of life" bond propositions in 2012, approving \$473,250,000 for  
11 projects by one of the largest voting margins for such proposals in  
12 any city in the nation; and

13       WHEREAS, El Paso is a vibrant, bilingual community; its  
14 residents enjoy a thriving fine arts community, exemplary  
15 educational institutions, and many cultural and historical  
16 resources and museums; and

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

21       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
22 Legislature hereby recognize February 12 and 13, 2013, as El Paso  
23 Days at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation  
24 sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable visit to Austin.