

By: Marquez

H.R. No. 447

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The year 2013 marks the 125th anniversary of the  
2 founding of Aoy Elementary School in El Paso; and

3           WHEREAS, Olivas Villanueva Aoy, a Franciscan priest, founded  
4 what would become Aoy Elementary in 1887 to help Mexican children  
5 learn English and prepare to enter public school; in 1888, the El  
6 Paso Independent School District voted to officially make  
7 Mr. Villanueva's school a part of the district and named it the  
8 Mexican Preparatory School; and

9           WHEREAS, Mr. Aoy taught the school's first students in a  
10 six-classroom building on the corner of Chihuahua Street and  
11 Francisco Street; after his death in 1895, the district renamed the  
12 school Aoy Elementary to honor his service; three years later, the  
13 district approved the construction of a new, larger campus on South  
14 Campbell Street in the Segundo Barrio, or Second Ward, neighborhood  
15 to meet the needs of the school's growing population; in 2003, local  
16 voters approved a ballot measure that combined Aoy with another  
17 nearby elementary school, Roosevelt, and the school now serves more  
18 than 500 students; and

19           WHEREAS, One of the district's oldest elementary schools, the  
20 institution continues to thrive under the guidance of principal  
21 Martha Franco, who has worked with her faculty to maintain an  
22 effective and nurturing learning environment, one that uses 21st  
23 century technologies to prepare students for the opportunities that  
24 lie ahead; and

1           WHEREAS, Aoy Elementary has equipped countless young Texans  
2 with a strong educational foundation, and its 125-year history is a  
3 testament to the enduring value the community places on the  
4 education of its children; now, therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
6 Legislature hereby commemorate the 125th anniversary of Aoy  
7 Elementary School and extend to its administrators, faculty, staff,  
8 and students sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

9           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
10 prepared for the school as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
11 House of Representatives.