

By: Marquez

H.R. No. 1033

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The year 2013 marks the 165th anniversary of the
2 founding of Fort Bliss, and this occasion provides a fitting
3 opportunity to reflect on the extraordinary service rendered by
4 this renowned military installation and its dedicated personnel;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Established in 1848 in what is now El Paso, Fort
7 Bliss is one of the oldest U.S. Army posts in the country; it was
8 named in honor of Lieutenant Colonel William Wallace Smith Bliss,
9 Chief of Staff to General Zachary Taylor during the
10 Mexican-American War; initially an infantry post, the fort became
11 the largest base for cavalry in the country in the 1910s; during
12 World War II it served primarily as an artillery base, and after the
13 war many international military students underwent training there;
14 during the Cold War, Fort Bliss was a premier site for testing
15 antiaircraft equipment, and after September 11, 2001, it became one
16 of the major deployment centers for troops bound for Iraq and
17 Afghanistan; and

18 WHEREAS, Today, Fort Bliss is composed of state-of-the-art
19 training areas, ranges, and facilities, and more than 90,000
20 soldiers and their families live on base or in the surrounding area;
21 the base supports all branches of the services and is the
22 headquarters of the 1st Armored Division, the 32nd Army Air and
23 Missile Defense Command, the United States Army Sergeants Major
24 Academy, and many other organizations; Fort Bliss has been led

1 since July 2010 by Major General Dana J. H. Pittard, an El Paso
2 native; and

3 WHEREAS, The post is currently undergoing the largest
4 transformation in its history, with the installation of new
5 top-of-the-line facilities and the expansion of child-care and
6 youth programs and medical and dental clinics; Fort Bliss continues
7 to benefit the area economically, contributing billions of dollars
8 to the local economy; and

9 WHEREAS, A vital pillar of this country's military
10 preparedness, Fort Bliss has played a storied role in the history of
11 the Lone Star State, and the citizens of Texas and the country at
12 large owe a lasting debt of gratitude to all who have served there;
13 now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
15 Legislature hereby commemorate the 165th anniversary of the
16 founding of Fort Bliss and extend to all those associated with the
17 base sincere appreciation for their immeasurable contributions in
18 this country's behalf.