

By: Rodriguez of Travis

H.R. No. 1411

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Nearly a quarter of a century before the siege of the  
2 Alamo, an army inspired by the fervor of Don Jose Bernardo  
3 Maximiliano Gutierrez de Lara and composed of Tejanos, volunteers  
4 from the United States, and Native American allies made a  
5 courageous bid to liberate Texas from the Spanish empire, leading  
6 to the first Texas Constitution on April 17, 1813; and

7           WHEREAS, On September 16, 1810, Father Miguel Hidalgo y  
8 Costilla and his followers seized the prison at Dolores, Mexico,  
9 sparking a Mexican rebellion against the Spanish empire; answering  
10 the call to freedom, Don Bernardo traveled to Washington, D.C., in  
11 1811 to inform the U.S. government of the rebels' plans to establish  
12 a republican government in Texas as part of the liberation of  
13 Mexico; and

14           WHEREAS, In 1812, Don Bernardo and former U.S. Army officer  
15 Augustus Magee led the Army of the North from Natchitoches,  
16 Louisiana, into Texas; this volunteer force quickly defeated the  
17 Spanish Royalist troops at the Battles of Nacogdoches, La Bahia,  
18 Rosillo, and Alazan Creek; and

19           WHEREAS, Don Bernardo and the republican army took possession  
20 of San Fernando de Bexar, now known as San Antonio, on the night of  
21 April 1 and 2, 1813, and on April 6, 1813, Don Bernardo signed a  
22 proclamation declaring Texas' independence from Spain; on April 17,  
23 1813, acting in his capacity as president of the new provisional  
24 government, Don Bernardo signed the first Texas Constitution; and

1           WHEREAS, This first bold attempt to win the independence of  
2 Texas came to a tragic end on August 18, 1813, when the Royalist  
3 army under General Joaquin de Arredondo defeated the Texan army at  
4 the Battle of Medina; during the bitterly fought, four-hour-long  
5 contest, more than 800 Tejano patriots lost their lives in their  
6 quest for freedom; and

7           WHEREAS, The valiant struggle of Don Jose Bernardo  
8 Maximiliano Gutierrez de Lara and the Army of the North to throw off  
9 the Spanish yoke represents a significant chapter in the rich  
10 annals of Texas history, one that is indeed worthy of remembrance on  
11 this special occasion; now, therefore, be it

12           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
13 Legislature hereby commemorate the 200th anniversary of the first  
14 Texas Constitution on April 17, 2013, and call on all Texans to  
15 honor the memory of Don Bernardo and his comrades.