

By: Raymond

H.R. No. 2015

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A monument honoring the legacy of Tejanos was  
2 unveiled on the historic grounds of the State Capitol on March 29,  
3 2012, and in the year since, it has served to educate visitors on an  
4 important chapter in the story of Texas; and

5           WHEREAS, The initiative began in 2000 when Dr. Cayetano  
6 Barrera, a physician in McAllen, raised a question about the lack of  
7 recognition for Hispanic contributions to the state in the works on  
8 the Capitol grounds; he brought his concern to state leaders, and in  
9 2001, the Texas Legislature passed a resolution calling for a  
10 statue honoring Tejanos; and

11           WHEREAS, Crafted by sculptor Armando Hinojosa, the Tejano  
12 Monument features life-size figures of a Spanish explorer, a family  
13 of settlers, and a mustang-riding vaquero herding a pair of  
14 longhorns; each part of the monument signifies a specific  
15 historical contribution by Tejanos and their ancestors, whose  
16 influences continue to be felt in all aspects of daily life; and

17           WHEREAS, The grassroots campaign that carried the endeavor to  
18 completion saw laborious but steady progress over the course of 12  
19 years, as several administrative hurdles were overcome and more  
20 than \$1 million was collected by private supporters; in 2010,  
21 design and final state approval was granted by the State  
22 Preservation Board and bronzing of the statues and site preparation  
23 could finally begin; two years later, the Tejano Monument was  
24 unveiled to a crowd of more than 1,000 supporters and much acclaim;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, The enthusiasm engendered by the monument  
3 additionally spurred the establishment of the Tejano History  
4 Curriculum Project, which helps to foster among elementary school  
5 students a deeper understanding of the significant accomplishments  
6 of Tejanos over the centuries; undertaken by The University of  
7 Texas College of Education with the support of corporate,  
8 educational, and nonprofit partners, the program is slated to  
9 expand to other universities and to school districts throughout the  
10 state; and

11 WHEREAS, The Tejano Monument was realized in large part due  
12 to the commitment and leadership of an intrepid group of executive  
13 board members: Dr. Barrera, president, Homero Vera, Dr. Andres  
14 Tijerina, and Renato Ramirez, vice presidents, Richard P. Sanchez,  
15 secretary and treasurer, and Jaime Beaman, director; further aiding  
16 in its success were advisory board members Benny Martinez, Loretta  
17 Williams, Aida Torres, William Zermeño, Estella Zermeño, Judge  
18 Emilio Vargas, and R. J. Molina, along with a host of other  
19 tireless advocates; and

20 WHEREAS, Spanning nearly half a millennium, the history of  
21 people of Spanish descent in what is now Texas comprises a broad  
22 spectrum of achievements that have advanced the civilization and  
23 shaped the cultural identity that so defines the Lone Star State; as  
24 a tribute to the immeasurable impact of their accomplishments, the  
25 Tejano Monument serves as a beacon and a source of tremendous pride  
26 that will continue to enlighten and inspire Texans for generations  
27 to come; now, therefore, be it

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1           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
2 Legislature hereby commemorate the one-year anniversary of the  
3 dedication of the Tejano Monument and extend best wishes to all  
4 those involved with the creation and establishment of the monument  
5 and the Tejano History Curriculum Project.