

By: M. Gonzalez of El Paso

H.R. No. 2669

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, For 34 million years, the ancient granite formation  
2 known as Hueco Tanks has brooded over the high desert basin of far  
3 West Texas, and the Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site  
4 preserves and protects this unique piece of Lone Star history and  
5 geology; and

6           WHEREAS, Situated 30 miles east of El Paso, these three  
7 massive red hills rise 450 feet above the desert floor; the name  
8 *hueco*, Spanish for "hollow," comes from the countless depressions  
9 in the stone that hold rainwater for months at a time; for  
10 centuries, this was often the only water to be found between the  
11 Pecos and the Rio Grande; and

12           WHEREAS, Human beings have been visiting Hueco Tanks for  
13 10,000 years, and occasionally people have even lived there, in  
14 small wattle-and-daub structures; in more recent times, the tanks  
15 were used by the Mescalero and Lipan Apaches, the Jumanos, the  
16 Comanches, the Kiowas, and the Tiguas, and the site is rich in  
17 ancient pictographs and petroglyphs; and

18           WHEREAS, The Butterfield Overland Mail set up a stagecoach  
19 station at the tanks in 1858, and for many years the land formed  
20 part of a ranch belonging to the Escontrias family; in the  
21 mid-1960s, Hueco Tanks became an El Paso County park, and in 1969,  
22 the county deeded the tanks to Texas Parks and Wildlife; in 1971,  
23 the site was added to the National Register of Historic Places; and

24           WHEREAS, Abounding in wildlife, archaeological sites, and

1 fascinating geological formations, Hueco Tanks is an invaluable  
2 resource for scientists and historians, as well as a favorite  
3 destination for hikers, birders, and rock climbers, and the  
4 preservation of this natural treasure as a state park represents  
5 the continuing commitment of the people of Texas to their rich  
6 heritage; now, therefore, be it

7         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
8 Legislature hereby recognize the lasting cultural and historical  
9 significance of Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site and extend  
10 to the park's staff sincere best wishes for continued success in  
11 their important work; and, be it further

12         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
13 prepared for Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site as an  
14 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.