

By: M. Gonzalez of El Paso

H.R. No. 2791

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For more than a quarter of a century, the El Paso
2 Mission Trail Association has been dedicated to promoting the
3 historic sites along the El Paso Mission Trail and to commemorating
4 the First Thanksgiving of the Southwest; and

5 WHEREAS, Featured along the trail are the Ysleta Mission,
6 which was founded in 1682 by the Tigua Indians and is the second
7 oldest continuously active parish in the United States, the Socorro
8 Mission, which was established in 1691 and is the second oldest
9 mission in this state, and Presidio Chapel of San Elizario, which
10 was built in 1877 on the site of an old Spanish presidio; and

11 WHEREAS, The El Paso Mission Trail is a nine-mile corridor
12 linking the three structures, and in 1986, historian Sheldon Hall
13 chartered the El Paso Mission Trail Association, which works with
14 other organizations to preserve these treasured buildings, to
15 promote the growth of the arts and the economy of the Mission Trail
16 area, and to celebrate the diverse cultures of El Paso; and

17 WHEREAS, One important event to which the association
18 contributes is the First Thanksgiving Celebration of Cultures
19 Conference and Commemoration that is held annually in April; this
20 event celebrates the journey of explorer Juan de Onate who traveled
21 with hundreds of colonists to cross the Chihuahuan Desert from
22 Santa Barbara in Mexico; exhausted and famished, the expedition
23 reached San Elizario in April 1598, and on April 30, they joined
24 with indigenous people in a festival and mass to give thanks for

1 their safe arrival; and

2 WHEREAS, The Mission Trail Association is made up of
3 volunteers who love their community and seek to preserve their
4 heritage, and their impressive commitment and ongoing endeavors
5 will ensure that current and future generations can learn from both
6 the tragedies and the glories of the past; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
8 Legislature hereby commend the El Paso Mission Trail Association
9 for its promotion and preservation of the trail and extend sincere
10 best wishes to its members for continued success with their
11 important work; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for the association as an expression of high regard by the
14 Texas House of Representatives.