

By: McClendon

H.R. No. 892

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The City of San Antonio is supporting the National  
2 Park Service in its application for World Heritage Site designation  
3 for the five Spanish Colonial missions established along the San  
4 Antonio River in the 18th century; and

5           WHEREAS, Determined to expand its influence in the New World,  
6 Spain built missions to convert indigenous people into subjects of  
7 the Spanish crown; these frontier institutions provided not only  
8 religious instruction, but also occupational training and  
9 education in the Spanish language and system of government; and

10           WHEREAS, Vibrant communities grew up around these outposts,  
11 and the city of San Antonio owes its existence to its five missions,  
12 San José y San Miguel de Aguayo, Nuestra Señora de la Purísima  
13 Concepción de Acuña, San Francisco de la Espada, San Juan  
14 Capistrano, and San Antonio de Valero, better known as the Alamo;  
15 these represent the largest concentration of Catholic missions in  
16 North America; and

17           WHEREAS, World Heritage Site designation is granted under the  
18 World Heritage Convention, which works to enhance understanding,  
19 appreciation, and international cooperation for heritage  
20 conservation, pursuing an ideal similar to that of the American  
21 National Park system; in 1973, the United States became one of the  
22 nearly 200 nations to ratify the convention, an independent treaty  
23 administered under UNESCO; current sites include the Egyptian  
24 pyramids and Australia's Great Barrier Reef, as well as our nation's

1 own Statue of Liberty and Grand Canyon; if accepted, the San Antonio  
2 missions would become the first World Heritage Site in the State of  
3 Texas; and

4 WHEREAS, World Heritage designation confirms the  
5 extraordinary cultural significance of sites and contributes to  
6 their preservation, and this recognition typically leads to  
7 increased international tourism and greater access to historians  
8 and preservation specialists; by supporting the National Park  
9 Service in its endeavors in behalf of the Spanish Colonial  
10 missions, the City of San Antonio is taking an important step to  
11 heighten global awareness of these irreplaceable cultural  
12 treasures and of Texas history; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
14 Legislature hereby commend the City of San Antonio for its vision in  
15 joining the effort to gain World Heritage Site designation for its  
16 five Spanish Colonial missions and extend sincere best wishes for  
17 its success to all those associated with this important project;  
18 and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
20 prepared for the city as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
21 House of Representatives.