

By: Guillen

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R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Live Oak County Historical Commission hosted the
2 dedication of an Official Texas Historical Marker for Loma Sandia
3 Prehistoric Cemetery in Live Oak County on April 19, 2015; and

4 WHEREAS, A late Middle Archaic burial ground and campsite,
5 the Loma Sandia site was discovered in 1973 by archeologists from
6 the Texas Department of Transportation working in advance of the
7 construction of Interstate Highway 37; the skeletal remains of more
8 than 200 individuals have been recovered, and strata analysis
9 indicated that burials occurred from 850 to 550 B.C., when a number
10 of tribes sharing a Coahuiltecan language dialect occupied the area
11 from present-day San Antonio to Mexican Coahuila and Tamaulipas;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Research at the Loma Sandia site has led
14 archeologists to revise theories about the ancient peoples of South
15 Texas; previously, scholars believed that most burials in the
16 region's interior were isolated graves left by small, constantly
17 moving bands; however, the size of the Loma Sandia cemetery and the
18 evidence offered by mortuary items found there indicate that the
19 culture, while itinerant, was more communal, with groups encamping
20 periodically for religious and funeral rituals within fixed
21 territories over a period of several hundred years; and

22 WHEREAS, Artifacts found at the site also reveal slowly
23 developing sophistication in the making of tools; in addition, the
24 items excavated, including marine shells and shark teeth, show

1 interaction with groups on the Gulf Coast, as well as a lesser
2 degree of communication with groups in Central Texas; and

3 WHEREAS, The Loma Sandia Prehistoric Cemetery has provided a
4 wealth of information about the early inhabitants of South Texas,
5 and recognition from the Texas Historical Commission underscores
6 the importance of this site in advancing knowledge of a bygone
7 civilization; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
9 Legislature hereby commemorate the dedication of the Official Texas
10 Historical Marker for the Loma Sandia Prehistoric Cemetery and
11 commend the efforts of those involved in securing this designation;
12 and, be it further

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