

By: González

H.R. No. 2315

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, With a unique history spanning 165 years, the Old El
2 Paso County Jail Museum is one of El Paso County's cultural
3 treasures; and

4 WHEREAS, Following the creation of El Paso County on January
5 3, 1850, San Elizario, the largest and most prosperous community in
6 the area, became the county seat and the site of the county's first
7 jail; established in an adobe building, the jail was furnished with
8 wrought-iron cages that could hold up to six prisoners; though El
9 Paso became the county seat in 1883, the jail remained in use until
10 the 1940s; and

11 WHEREAS, According to oral tradition, in the fall of 1876,
12 Billy the Kid traveled from Mesilla, New Mexico, to break his
13 friend, Melquiades Segura, out of the Old El Paso County Jail; he
14 disarmed the guards by pretending to be a Texas Ranger and released
15 his friend, and then the two outlaws headed toward the Mexican
16 border; the popularity of this historical anecdote has led to
17 frequent reenactments and the establishment of an annual Billy the
18 Kid Festival in San Elizario; and

19 WHEREAS, The residents of the State of Texas are heirs to an
20 extraordinarily rich heritage, and the Old El Paso County Jail
21 Museum serves as an important reminder of this legacy; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
24 Legislature hereby honor the Old El Paso County Jail Museum and

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1 extend to all those associated with the museum sincere best wishes
2 for the future; and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
4 prepared for the museum as an expression of high regard by the Texas
5 House of Representatives.