

By: Meyer

H.R. No. 2452

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Meadows Museum at Southern Methodist University  
2 in Dallas is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding in  
3 2015; and

4           WHEREAS, Inspired by visits to the famed Prado Museum in  
5 Madrid during the 1950s, the Texas philanthropist and oil financier  
6 Algur H. Meadows began to collect Spanish art, and in 1962, he  
7 donated funds to endow a museum to house his collection on the SMU  
8 campus as part of a new arts center; and

9           WHEREAS, The Meadows Museum opened its doors in 1965, and it  
10 quickly won renown for having one of the largest and most  
11 comprehensive collections of Spanish art outside of Spain; spanning  
12 1,000 years, from the 10th century to the 21st, the collection  
13 contains masterpieces by El Greco, Velazquez, Goya, Miro, and  
14 Picasso, as well as Renaissance altar pieces and a selection of  
15 twentieth-century sculptures by Auguste Rodin, Henry Moore, Claes  
16 Oldenburg, and others; the plaza outside the museum is graced with  
17 Santiago Calatrava's giant moving sculpture, *Wave*; the museum  
18 offers visitors guided tours of its collection, as well as public  
19 lectures, gallery talks, and symposia by leading scholars and  
20 artists; and

21           WHEREAS, Through the years, the Meadows Foundation has  
22 continued to provide generous support to the museum, contributing  
23 \$18.5 million for a new building that opened in 2001, as well as  
24 funds for acquisitions, exhibitions, curatorial staff, and other

1 purposes; in March 2015, the foundation contributed \$25 million to  
2 the museum and \$20 million to the Meadows School of the Arts, the  
3 largest single gift in SMU's history; and

4 WHEREAS, This festive anniversary year is being marked at the  
5 museum with a series of special exhibitions and events, including a  
6 retrospective display of archival material, artworks, and  
7 photographs documenting the museum's history, *The Meadows*  
8 *Collects: 50 Years of Spanish Art in Texas*; and

9 WHEREAS, With the founding of the Meadows Museum, Algur  
10 Meadows fulfilled his dream of creating a "small Prado for Texas,"  
11 and in the half-century since, the museum has offered countless  
12 Texans as well as visitors from around the world the opportunity to  
13 view and enjoy some of the great masterworks of Spanish art; now,  
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
16 Legislature hereby commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Meadows  
17 Museum in Dallas and extend to its staff and volunteers sincere best  
18 wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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