

By: Gutierrez

H.R. No. 2674

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of San Antonio for more than 200 years,
2 the Arciniega family has long made important contributions to the
3 Alamo City and the State of Texas; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1803, a company of 100 Spanish lancers, the
5 Second Flying Company of San Carlos de Parras, was sent from
6 Coahuila to reinforce the presidio of San Antonio de Béxar; among
7 the company was Gregorio Arciniega, who arrived in San Antonio with
8 his wife, María Josefa Flores de Abrego, his son, José Miguel, and
9 his daughter, Dolores; in November 1811, Gregorio Arciniega was
10 granted a tract of land in San Antonio on Alamo Street, and he
11 subsequently built a home on Arciniega and South Presa Streets; he
12 died in San Antonio in 1822, and the property was inherited by José
13 Miguel, his only son; and

14 WHEREAS, Born in Coahuila on September 20, 1793, José Miguel
15 Arciniega was a man of broad ability and experience; fluent in
16 Spanish, English, French, and nine Native American dialects, he
17 held at least 18 positions under three different flags; in the
18 1810s, he made trips to gather information about the presence of
19 Americans and foreigners in Northeast Texas, along the Trinity
20 River, and at Galveston, and in 1823, he served as a member of the
21 Texas provincial deputation to the Constituent Congress in Mexico
22 City; three years later, he was sent to East Texas to ascertain the
23 mood of the Cherokees, who had been trying to secure a land grant
24 from the Mexican government, and he met with Richard Fields,

1 diplomatic chief of the Cherokees, as well as with leaders of
2 several other tribes; he was appointed captain of the militia in
3 December 1826, and he was elected the following spring as one of two
4 deputies from the District of Béxar to the legislature of the State
5 of Coahuila and Texas; and

6 WHEREAS, Named land commissioner for Stephen F. Austin's
7 colonies in 1830, José Miguel Arciniega signed a four-league grant
8 for the town of Bastrop, which he helped to plat; the people of San
9 Antonio elected him twice as their alcalde, or mayor, during the
10 1830s; Mexican general Martín Perfecto de Cos relied upon his skill
11 as an interpreter in negotiations for the surrender of Béxar in
12 1835, and that year, Arciniega was appointed second judge of Béxar;
13 although he was selected as the Béxar delegate for the
14 revolutionary Convention of 1836, his responsibilities at home kept
15 him from attending; a man of substance, he held, in addition to
16 property in San Antonio, a land grant of nearly 50,000 acres in what
17 is now Hunt, Grayson, and Harrison Counties; and

18 WHEREAS, This dynamic leader was united in marriage with
19 María Alexandra S. Losoya in 1825, and they became the parents of 10
20 children; after his passing in 1849, his descendants remained in
21 San Antonio and the surrounding vicinity, and some 400 reside in the
22 area today; they have united to preserve the rich oral tradition
23 that tells of their illustrious ancestor, and they have followed in
24 his footsteps, recording notable achievements of their own; fields
25 of professional endeavor represented in the modern Arciniega family
26 include the arts, education, finance, medicine, public service, the
27 military, real estate, law, and the ministry; and

1 WHEREAS, José Miguel Arciniega demonstrated a profound
2 commitment to the community he helped shape, and some two centuries
3 later, his descendants continue to bring honor to the family name;
4 now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
6 Legislature hereby pay tribute to José Miguel Arciniega and commend
7 his descendants for their efforts to raise awareness of his role in
8 the history of our state; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
10 prepared for the family as an expression of high regard by the Texas
11 House of Representatives.