

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 644**

**WHEREAS**, The City of San Antonio and Bexar County are supporting the National Park Service in its application for World Heritage Site designation for the five Spanish Colonial missions established along the San Antonio River in the 18th century; and

**WHEREAS**, Determined to expand its influence in the New World, Spain built missions to convert indigenous people to Catholicism, to acclimate them in some measure to Hispanic culture, and to make them subjects of the Spanish crown; these frontier institutions provided not only religious instruction, but also occupational training and education in the Spanish language and system of government; and

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

**WHEREAS**, World Heritage Site designation is granted under the World Heritage Convention, which seeks to enhance understanding, appreciation, and international cooperation for heritage conservation, pursuing an ideal similar to that advanced by the American National Park system; in 1973, the United States became one of the nearly 200 nations to ratify the convention, an independent treaty administered under UNESCO; current sites include the Egyptian pyramids and Australia's Great Barrier Reef, as well as our nation's own Statue of Liberty and Grand Canyon; if accepted, the San Antonio missions would become the first World Heritage Site in the State of Texas; and

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

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby commend the City of San Antonio and Bexar County for their vision in joining the effort to gain World Heritage Site designation for San Antonio's five Spanish Colonial missions and extend sincere best wishes for success to all those associated with this important project; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for the city and county as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Uresti, Menéndez, Zaffirini

Bettencourt	Hall	Perry
Birdwell	Hancock	Rodríguez
Burton	Hinojosa	Schwertner
Creighton	Huffines	Seliger
Ellis	Huffman	Taylor of Galveston
Eltife	Kolkhorst	Taylor of Collin
Estes	Lucio	Watson
Fraser	Nelson	West
Garcia	Nichols	Whitmire

Patrick, President of the Senate

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 28, 2015.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate

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Member, Texas Senate

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Member, Texas Senate