

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1069

**WHEREAS**, The State of Texas is home to a wealth of natural, cultural, and historic sites that enjoy national and international recognition for their significance; and

**WHEREAS**, Among these sites are 15 that are overseen by the National Park Service; they include such natural wonders as the rugged Guadalupe Mountains National Park, which encompasses the highest peak in Texas, and the windswept Padre Island National Seashore, the longest stretch of undeveloped barrier island in the world, as well as such historic structures as the frontier military post at Fort Davis, the 300-year-old missions in San Antonio, and the ranch house of President Lyndon B. Johnson; the Texas components of the National Park System offer protection to 21 threatened and endangered species, preserve important pieces of Texas and American history, and provide the state with \$238,900,000 in economic benefit; and

**WHEREAS**, Texans have long realized the importance of conserving their natural and historical heritage, and they have played a vital role in the creation of National Park Service units in the state; Big Bend, the first national park established in Texas, was made possible with the appropriation of \$1.5 million by the 47th Texas Legislature, funds that enabled the purchase of most of the land; the state also donated Rancho de las Cabras, the mission ranch of San Francisco de la Espada, for inclusion in the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park; moreover, the City of Waco has approved the transfer of the Waco Mammoth Site to the federal government for the purpose of establishing it as a national monument; and

**WHEREAS**, In addition to its National Park Service sites, Texas boasts 3,189 structures that have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places, as well as 46 National Historic Landmarks, including the Apollo Mission Control Center in Houston, the Governor's Mansion in Austin, and the USS *Lexington* aircraft carrier in Corpus Christi; the 20 National Natural Landmarks in Texas include Enchanted Rock, the High Plains Natural Area, and Palo Duro Canyon; and

**WHEREAS**, Two sites in Texas, the Big Thicket National Preserve and the Chihuahuan Desert Biosphere Reserve, have received further international recognition with their designation as United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization International Biosphere Reserves; in addition, the Alamo, the other San Antonio missions, and Rancho de las Cabras have been proposed for inclusion on the organization's prestigious list of World Heritage sites; and

**WHEREAS**, All these treasures, and many others, are of immense cultural, historical, ecological, and economic importance, and they are a source of tremendous pride to all Texans; now, therefore, be it

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**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the nationally and internationally recognized natural and historic sites in the Lone Star State.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on June 1, 2015.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate