

By: González of El Paso

H.R. No. 1520

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society is
2 presenting the first annual Rio Grande Festival in San Elizario on
3 April 28-30, 2017; and

4 WHEREAS, This free celebration commemorates the arrival of
5 the Oñate expedition in the El Paso area in the late 16th century;
6 Don Juan de Oñate was commissioned by King Philip II of Spain in
7 1595 to settle the New Mexico region in the name of the crown; in
8 January 1598, Oñate embarked on that mission from Santa Barbara,
9 Mexico, leading a group of 400 men and their families across the
10 Chihuahuan Desert; they reached the present-day site of San
11 Elizario three months later, and on April 30, Oñate issued an
12 official proclamation, known as La Toma, claiming the land for
13 Spain; and

14 WHEREAS, In addition to a reenactment of that momentous
15 event, the three-day festival will feature a special dinner with
16 entertainment, as well as a host of other family-friendly
17 activities, including daily cultural presentations, live music,
18 and arts and crafts; another major component of the festival is a
19 three-day history conference, the 26th such annual meeting the
20 society has sponsored; more than 30 speakers will be addressing a
21 range of topics, among them such subjects as the Oñate expedition,
22 historical preservation, and UNESCO World Heritage sites along the
23 Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, the Royal Inland Road, which passed
24 through El Paso del Norte and stretched some 1,600 miles, linking

1 Mexico City with Santa Fe; and

2 WHEREAS, The Rio Grande Festival offers local residents and
3 visitors alike the opportunity to learn more about a significant
4 milestone in the history of Mexico and the American Southwest, and
5 it is a pleasure to pay tribute to this outstanding celebration and
6 the dedicated individuals who have brought it to fruition; now,
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
9 Legislature hereby commemorate the first annual Rio Grande Festival
10 and extend to the organizers and attendees sincere best wishes for a
11 memorable and enjoyable occasion; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for the San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society as
14 an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.