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H.R. No. 2689

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The heritage of the vaquero remains vital in South
2 Texas, and the central role this colorful and iconic figure has
3 played in the history of the Lone Star State is being celebrated
4 with Vaquero Day on June 30, 2017; and

5 WHEREAS, Renowned for their horsemanship and stock-handling
6 skills, vaqueros were crucial to the advance of Spanish ranching
7 into Texas; from the mid-18th century onward, vaqueros figured
8 significantly in the development of large, open-range cattle
9 ranches in the region between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande,
10 traces of which can still be seen on the land in the form of
11 fortified stone blockhouses, ranch outbuildings, chapels and
12 cemeteries, hand-dug wells, and the man-made reservoirs that made
13 it possible to assemble enormous herds; and

14 WHEREAS, With the expansion of the Texas cattle industry in
15 the 19th century, the vaquero's traditions shaped ranching
16 practices all across the state, and much of the vaquero's
17 equipment--his chaps, bandana, sombrero, lasso, spurs, and
18 saddle--became standard gear for all Texas cowboys, while other
19 elements of his craft, such as mounted herding and roping
20 techniques, also influenced early Anglo American practices;
21 eventually, these vaquero-inspired methods of working cattle
22 spread across the High Plains and the western part of the United
23 States; and

24 WHEREAS, Today, the proud culture of the vaquero is being

1 kept alive by such notable organizations as the Vaqueros of South
2 Texas, whose members work to preserve the vaquero tradition for
3 future generations; and

4 WHEREAS, Through a deep appreciation of the land and through
5 skills honed over the course of centuries, the vaquero has
6 contributed immeasurably to the history, culture, and economy of
7 South Texas and to the rich ranching heritage of the Lone Star State
8 and the American West; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
10 Legislature hereby recognize June 30, 2017, as Vaquero Day and
11 commend the members of Vaqueros of South Texas for their fidelity to
12 the generations of vaqueros who came before them.