

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2

**WHEREAS,** The Texas Senate is pleased to recognize February 22 and 23, 2017, as El Paso Days at the State Capitol; and

**WHEREAS,** Located in the westernmost tip of the great State of Texas, the City of El Paso combines a modern metropolis with the charm born of its Spanish origins; the area was named El Paso by the Spanish conquistador Don Juan de Onate for the shallow place in the river where the colonists crossed on their way to Santa Fe, New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS,** The arrival of the railroads in 1881 ushered in an era of prosperity, and El Paso became a flourishing frontier community that developed into a significant industrial, commercial, and transportation city; and

**WHEREAS,** Today, semitrailers, trains, and airplanes transport manufactured goods through the border cities at the Pass, just as Spanish traders did in the 16th century when they guided ox-drawn carts along the Camino Real from Mexico City to Santa Fe; and

**WHEREAS,** With a population of three-quarters of a million people, El Paso is the state's sixth-largest city and the nation's 19th largest; the largest American city on the 2,000-mile United States-Mexico border, it lies north of and across the Rio Grande from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico's fifth-largest city, which has a population of over a million people; and

**WHEREAS,** Nearby Fort Bliss has recently undergone the biggest transformation in its 169-year history; there has been a 300-percent increase in its population since 2005 and an investment of \$6 billion in construction for new, top-of-the-line facilities for the incoming personnel and their

families, including a new billion-dollar military hospital; this installation is at the forefront of the United States Army's transformation plan, having transitioned from a Training and Doctrine post to a Forces Command post, making Fort Bliss the home of the 1st Armored Division, "America's Tank Division"; and

**WHEREAS**, El Paso is a vibrant, bilingual community, and many of its residents are fluent in Spanish; its residents enjoy a thriving fine arts community, exemplary educational institutions, and many cultural and historical resources and museums; and

**WHEREAS**, El Paso Days at the State Capitol provides an opportunity for friends and families to honor El Paso and its rich heritage, which today is enjoyed by residents and vacationers of all ages; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby recognize February 22 and 23, 2017, as El Paso Days at the State Capitol and join the citizens of this historic and vibrant region in paying tribute to this wonderful city; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared as a memento of this special occasion.

Rodríguez

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the  
above Resolution was adopted by  
the Senate on February 22, 2017.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate