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By:  Moody H.R. No. 350

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Residents of El Paso are gathering in Austin to celebrate February 18 through 20, 2019, as El Paso Days at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, This vibrant, bilingual, and bicultural community has exemplary educational institutions, museums, and historical sites and many cultural and fine arts offerings that attract residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, Recently designated as an All-America City by the National Civic League, El Paso may be commended for its civic accomplishments, innovation, inclusiveness, public engagement, and cross-sector collaboration; furthermore, it is consistently rated as one of the safest cities in the nation because of its outstanding law enforcement agencies and the commitment of all members of the community; and

WHEREAS, It is the home of The University of Texas at El Paso, which received the coveted R1 designation from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education for its very high level of research activity, a designation that additionally highlights UTEP's continuing commitment to maintaining excellence and providing access to a diverse, 21st-century demographic; and

WHEREAS, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso became a stand-alone health sciences center in 2013, making it the fourth and newest member of the Texas Tech University System; the center is composed of the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, the Gayle Greve Hunt School of Nursing, and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences; headed by Dr. Richard Lange, the university enrolls more than 1,000 students, is home to the first medical school on the nation's southern border, and conducts important research focused on cancer, diabetes and obesity, infectious diseases, and the neurosciences; TTUHSC El Paso will soon add the Woody L. Hunt School of Dental Medicine, elevating access to critical dental care for West Texans; and

WHEREAS, El Paso has a long and notable association with the 171-year-old Fort Bliss, which has recently undergone a major transformation; the base of the 1st Armored Division, "America's Tank Division," Fort Bliss has seen a 300 percent increase in its population since 2005 and a $6 billion investment in the construction of new facilities; it is at the forefront of the U.S. Army's transformation plans, evolving from a training facility to a forces command post; and

WHEREAS, An area with a rich and fascinating heritage, El Paso has contributed immeasurably to the story of the Lone Star State, and its citizens should take great pride in the extraordinary city they call home; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize February 18 through 20, 2019, as El Paso Days at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable stay in Austin.