86R36812 CJM-D

By:  Nevárez H.R. No. 2103

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Center for Big Bend Studies at Sul Ross State University has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia of Mexico and the city of Ágreda, Spain, to pursue archaeological and historical research; and

WHEREAS, SRSU has enjoyed a relationship with Mexican research institutions since the 1930s, and the CBBS renewed this relationship on July 18, 2017, by signing a memorandum of understanding with INAH, the federal agency that oversees all archaeological research in Mexico; this agreement seeks to secure viable archaeological and historical research areas in Big Bend National Park in southwest Texas and the La Junta de los Rios region of northern Mexico; and

WHEREAS, On April 12, 2019, the CBBS also executed an MOU with the city of Ágreda; situated in the Soria province of Spain, Ágreda was the home of Sor María de Jesús, the 17th century abbess of the Convento de la Concepción popularly known as "the Lady in Blue"; her inspirational writings were brought to Texas by Franciscan friars, and one of them, Antonio de Olivares, founded Mission San Antonio de Valero, now known as the Alamo, on May 1, 1718; the mission's original location at San Pedro Springs Park in San Antonio has been recognized by CBBS, INAH, the city of Ágreda, Univision 41 San Antonio, Texas Before The Alamo, the Bexar County Historical Commission, and other entities; and

WHEREAS, Early research into the Spanish, Mestizo, and Mexican history of Texas was conducted by Herbert Eugene Bolton in the Spanish archives in Mexico City, and his textbook, *With the Makers of Texas: A Source Reader in Texas History*, influenced the work of Adina de Zavala, an early member of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas; in addition to leading the effort to save the Convento at the Alamo from destruction in 1908, she helped found the Texas Historical Commission and published a book based on Bolton's research titled *History and Legends of the Alamo and Other Missions In and Around San Antonio*; and

WHEREAS, Bolton's research also influenced the work of J. Charles Kelley, a pioneering archaeologist of the Borderlands region who first conceived of a center for Big Bend studies in the 1930s; after the founding of the INAH in 1939, he worked with the institute on several large-scale excavations in Chihuahua and Zacatecas between 1949 and 1993, and as an adjunct professor at Sul Ross, he helped establish the CBBS in 1987, freely sharing his lifetime of accumulated knowledge with other researchers; and

WHEREAS, The history of the Big Bend region is inextricably linked to the histories of Spain and Mexico, and the research agreements between CBBS, INAH, and the city of Ágreda will provide invaluable insight into the proud legacy of the Spanish and Mestizo founders of Texas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the Center for Big Bend Studies, the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia of Mexico, and the city of Ágreda and extend to all involved sincere best wishes for success in their important work; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared for CBBS, INAH, and Ágreda as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.