

By: King of Parker

H.R. No. 16

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, For more than 3,000 years, Jerusalem has played a  
2 central role in the history and identity of the Jewish people; and

3           WHEREAS, Jerusalem serves as a cultural and religious  
4 inspiration to people around the world; it is the location of the  
5 holiest site for the Jewish people, the Temple Mount, as well as the  
6 Western Wall, where the faithful come to pray; moreover, the city  
7 holds considerable religious significance for Christians and  
8 Muslims and has been a pilgrimage site for millennia; and

9           WHEREAS, The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and  
10 Cultural Organization has passed a series of anti-Israeli  
11 resolutions in recent years regarding Jerusalem, both at the  
12 committee level and by the executive board, the governing body of  
13 UNESCO; these resolutions attempt to erase or minimize the Jewish  
14 and Christian historical and religious ties to Jerusalem, and they  
15 unjustly single out our close ally Israel with false accusations  
16 and criticism; and

17           WHEREAS, Numerous archaeological excavations have uncovered  
18 antiquities which scientifically reaffirm Jerusalem's historical  
19 significance to Judaism and Christianity; Israel's most  
20 archaeologically excavated site, the City of David, is believed to  
21 be the very site recorded in the Bible upon which King David  
22 established the capital of ancient Israel; international  
23 delegations of archaeologists from the United States, England,  
24 France, and Germany have conducted excavations at the site since

1 1867, and they have unearthed antiquities from more than 10  
2 different civilizations, including Canaanite, Israelite, Roman,  
3 Byzantine, and Persian societies; current excavations of the City  
4 of David are carried out under the auspices of the Israel  
5 Antiquities Authority and are held to the highest scientific  
6 standards; and

7       WHEREAS, Significant archeological discoveries unearthed  
8 from the City of David include the Siloam Inscription, which  
9 recounts the preparations made by King Hezekiah of Judah for the  
10 impending Assyrian siege against Jerusalem, consistent with the  
11 biblical account; clay seal impressions bearing the names of two  
12 Judean Government officials who are mentioned in the very same  
13 verse in the Bible; the Pool of Siloam, which served during the  
14 Second Temple period as a ritual bath for Jewish pilgrims ascending  
15 annually to the Temple, which stood atop the Temple Mount; and the  
16 Second Temple Pilgrimage Road, which began at the Pool of Siloam and  
17 served as the main thoroughfare of Second Temple period Jerusalem  
18 and carried hundreds of thousands of people on their annual  
19 pilgrimages to the Temple; located within the City of David, the  
20 Pilgrimage Road stretches nearly 2,000 feet from the Pool of Siloam  
21 to the footsteps of the Western Wall and will be open to visitors  
22 upon completion of the excavation; and

23       WHEREAS, These discoveries affirm the undeniable truth that  
24 the City of David, the Western Wall, and the Temple Mount are  
25 inextricably linked physically, historically, and symbolically as  
26 the bedrock of the connection between the Jewish people and  
27 Jerusalem and have been for millennia; and

1           WHEREAS, The Government of Israel has done commendable work  
2 to protect the freedoms of all faiths in Jerusalem and ensure  
3 visitors' access to holy sites so that they may worship freely; any  
4 past, present, or future efforts at UNESCO to delegitimize Israel  
5 through attempts to rewrite and deny the history of Jerusalem  
6 should be condemned, and the United States should continue to work  
7 with allies to prevent UNESCO from passing biased and unjust  
8 anti-Israeli resolutions in the future; now, therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
10 Legislature hereby affirm the historical connection of the Jewish  
11 people to the ancient and sacred city of Jerusalem and condemn  
12 efforts at the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural  
13 Organization to deny Judaism's millennia-old historical,  
14 religious, and cultural ties to Jerusalem.