

By: Canales

H.R. No. 139

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Bullock Texas State History Museum is hosting
2 Reverberations of Memory, Violence, and History: A Conference for
3 the Centennial of the 1919 Canales Investigation; and

4 WHEREAS, Between 1910 and 1920, there was a period of racial
5 conflict along the U.S.-Mexico border; in an effort to restore
6 order, the Texas Rangers were dispatched to the region, but that
7 resulted in increased bloodshed; the Rangers engaged in violence
8 and heavy-handed discrimination against the Tejano civilian
9 population, and it is estimated that as many as 5,000 ethnic
10 Mexicans were killed by the Rangers between 1914 and 1919; and

11 WHEREAS, In January 1919, Texas State Representative José
12 T. Canales of Brownsville, the only state legislator of Hispanic
13 descent at the time, filed 19 charges of misconduct against the
14 Texas Rangers and demanded a legislative investigation into the
15 force's actions; after hearing two weeks of testimony, a joint
16 committee of the Texas house and senate issued a report
17 recommending a reorganization of the Rangers; legislation was
18 subsequently passed carrying out these reforms and also
19 establishing specific procedures for citizen complaints against
20 Ranger wrongdoing; and

21 WHEREAS, The centennial conference taking place in Austin on
22 January 31 and February 1, 2019, will offer an in-depth study of the
23 Canales Investigation and its broader impact and legacy; the
24 gathering will feature internationally recognized scholars and

1 researchers who will deliver different perspectives on the history
2 of extralegal violence in the United States and who will explore the
3 connections between the events of the 1910s and contemporary
4 developments related to border policing; and

5 WHEREAS, The 1919 Canales Investigation stands as a pivotal
6 episode that helped document racial injustice in the United States,
7 and all those associated with the Reverberations of Memory,
8 Violence, and History conference are to be commended for raising
9 awareness of the investigation and its many lasting implications
10 for our state and nation; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
12 Legislature hereby commemorate Reverberations of Memory, Violence,
13 and History: A Conference for the Centennial of the 1919 Canales
14 Investigation and extend to the participants sincere best wishes
15 for a productive event.