

By: Pacheco

H.R. No. 554

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Texas A&M University-San Antonio is celebrating its  
2 10th anniversary in 2019, and this milestone offers a fitting  
3 opportunity to pay tribute to this dynamic institution; and

4           WHEREAS, State Senator Frank Madla was an instrumental figure  
5 in the establishment of A&M-SA; in the late 1990s, he initiated the  
6 process of locating an institution of higher education on the South  
7 Side of San Antonio, and the first courses were offered in 2000,  
8 when 126 students began studies under the auspices of The Texas A&M  
9 University System; initially, classes were held at Palo Alto  
10 Community College, and land for a permanent campus was acquired in  
11 2007; the official founding of Texas A&M University-San Antonio as  
12 a stand-alone university took place in May 2009, with the passage of  
13 Senate Bill 629 by the Texas Legislature and the bill's subsequent  
14 signing by Governor Rick Perry; and

15           WHEREAS, The first decade in the A&M-SA saga has been filled  
16 with notable accomplishments; Dr. Maria Hernandez Ferrier was  
17 named inaugural president in 2010 and helped guide the college's  
18 early development, including the opening of the Main Campus  
19 building in 2011; Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson took the reins in  
20 2014 and has overseen further additions to the university's  
21 facilities, including the completion of the campus's first  
22 dormitory, Esperanza Hall, in 2017 and the three-story Science and  
23 Technology Building in 2018; and

24           WHEREAS, One of the defining characteristics of the past 10

1 years has been the university's robust growth; enrollment has  
2 increased by more than 300 percent during that period, reaching a  
3 present total of 6,500, and over 8,000 students have earned an  
4 A&M-SA degree to date; from the outset, the institution has placed a  
5 special focus on serving underrepresented communities in the local  
6 area, and it has pioneered programs to help students overcome  
7 financial and academic barriers to completing their studies; today,  
8 nearly three-quarters of A&M-SA students are Hispanic, 60 percent  
9 are female, and 77 percent are the first members of their families  
10 to attend college; and

11 WHEREAS, Since its inception, Texas A&M University-San  
12 Antonio has excelled in its educational mission, helping the  
13 members of its diverse student body to prepare for the challenges  
14 and opportunities of the future, and all those associated with the  
15 institution may take justifiable pride in its outstanding record of  
16 achievement; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
18 Legislature hereby commemorate the 10th anniversary of the founding  
19 of Texas A&M University-San Antonio and extend to the school's  
20 students, faculty, and administrators sincere best wishes for  
21 continued success; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
23 prepared for the university as an expression of high regard by the  
24 Texas House of Representatives.