

By: Nevárez

H.R. No. 733

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Community and business leaders of Eagle Pass are
2 gathering in Austin on March 6 and 7, 2019, to celebrate Eagle Pass
3 Legislative Days at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Located in Maverick County along the U.S.-Mexico
5 border in southwest Texas, Eagle Pass was established in 1849 and
6 serves as the county seat; the city was originally named El Paso del
7 Aguila because of the frequent flights of Mexican eagles over the
8 area; and

9 WHEREAS, Artifacts uncovered throughout Eagle Pass and the
10 region attest to the presence of hunter-gatherers in prehistoric
11 times; the area was also visited by Spanish explorers and settlers,
12 who traversed the Camino Real, later known as Old San Antonio Road,
13 in greater numbers than in any other section of the state; various
14 expeditions, including that of Alonso de León in 1690, served to
15 forge the trail and elevate its significance in the early history of
16 Texas; and

17 WHEREAS, In the tumultuous years of the Civil War, Eagle Pass
18 was a trade depot for the Military Board of Texas, and Fort Duncan
19 north of the town was occupied by Confederate troops; after the
20 fort's abandonment during the war, Native American populations
21 seized control of the region, leading to several violent
22 skirmishes; and

23 WHEREAS, Today, City of Eagle Pass officials are committed to
24 working together to create jobs, encourage young people, and

1 improve the quality of life in their region; among the
2 accomplishments in recent years are a renovated public library,
3 revitalized downtown, completion of infrastructure projects at
4 ports of entry, upgraded parks with the addition of a skate park,
5 and construction of a new public safety building; and

6 WHEREAS, The City of Eagle Pass has established a Business &
7 Economic Development Committee, which serves as a special advisory
8 committee to the mayor and city council; it includes nine standing
9 committees and works through collaborative efforts with the public
10 and private sector groups to support economic development and to
11 attract and retain solid business, industry, and trade, as well as
12 affordable housing; specific goals include expanding the region's
13 transportation, infrastructure, and health care services and the
14 establishment of a four-year college to broaden the educational
15 opportunities provided by local institutions Sul Ross State
16 University Rio Grande College and Southwest Texas Junior College;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, With three international bridges, including a rail
19 bridge, Eagle Pass and Maverick County have become an important
20 port of entry for international commerce that supports over \$25.2
21 billion in manufactured goods and averages 10,000 cars, 700
22 commercial trucks, and 3,000 pedestrians daily and over 450,000
23 rail cars annually; and

24 WHEREAS, The city hosted the first Babe Ruth World Series
25 last summer with teams from throughout the United States, and the
26 Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas provides an important source of
27 jobs, revenue, and tourism; visitors to the region can also learn

1 about area history at Fort Duncan Park and San Juan Plaza and enjoy
2 outdoor recreation at Maverick County Lake; moreover, they can
3 stroll the streets of historic downtown Eagle Pass, which has been
4 designated as a Texas Main Street City by the Texas Historical
5 Commission; and

6 WHEREAS, The residents of Eagle Pass, led by Mayor Ramsey
7 English-Cantu, Mayor Pro-tem Yolanda Ramon, and city council
8 members Rudy Villalpando, Luis Sifuentes, and William "Billy"
9 Davis, are justifiably proud of their rich heritage, and it is most
10 fitting that they be honored for their contributions to the story of
11 the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
13 Legislature hereby recognize March 6 and 7, 2019, as Eagle Pass
14 Legislative Days at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting
15 delegation sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable stay
16 in Austin.