

By: Darby

H.R. No. 1565

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, With a proud heritage that spans many centuries, the
2 Jumano Indians of Texas have been a vital part of the history of the
3 Lone Star State; and

4 WHEREAS, The Jumano were living in parts of present-day Texas
5 when Europeans first arrived in the area, and they may have
6 encountered the Spanish explorer Cabeza de Vaca in 1535 near the
7 site now occupied by the city of Presidio; they were first
8 identified as "Jumano" in 1582 by another explorer, Antonio de
9 Espejo; and

10 WHEREAS, In this era, the Jumano were a seminomadic people
11 who hunted buffalo, farmed, and served as salt traders, following
12 the Colorado River to where it joins the Concho River; early on,
13 they adopted the use of the horse, and some Jumano were associated
14 with pueblo villages; their original territory stretched from what
15 is now the Chihuahua region of Mexico, through West Texas, and into
16 New Mexico; and

17 WHEREAS, Between 1621 and 1631, a Catholic nun named Sor
18 Maria de Jesus of Agreda, also known as the "Lady in Blue," is said
19 to have appeared to the Jumano and spoken to them in their native
20 language, beginning their conversion to Christianity; in recent
21 years, Jumanos have played an important role in the effort of the
22 Catholic Church to canonize Sor Maria; and

23 WHEREAS, The Jumano endured many hardships over the
24 centuries, including warfare with rival Native American groups and

1 non-native settlers and the spread of infectious diseases; during
2 the 1700s, the Jumano began to disappear from the historical record
3 as a distinct people, and it is thought that some members of the
4 tribe were absorbed into other groups; they became less prevalent
5 in Texas during the turbulent period that stretched into the 1800s,
6 but after 1875, Jumanos began to return to their traditional
7 homeland, including such Texas locations as Candelaria, Valentine,
8 Presidio, and Balmorhea; and

9 WHEREAS, In recent years, many Jumano families have begun to
10 reclaim their heritage, and at present there are more than 5,000
11 people who can claim descent from this ancient people; Jumanos have
12 served in the United States military in every war since the Civil
13 War, and they continue to be active and vital members of their
14 communities; on May 22, 2016, the council of the Jumano Indian
15 Nation of Texas was established under the leadership of chair Felix
16 Bonilla Salmeron; and

17 WHEREAS, Heirs to a rich legacy, the members of the Jumano
18 Indian Nation of Texas are strengthened by the cultural traditions
19 and close ties of kinship that have been passed down from their
20 forebears, and it is indeed fitting to gratefully pay tribute to
21 their contributions to the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
23 Legislature hereby honor the Jumano Indian Nation of Texas and
24 extend to its members sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it
25 further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
27 prepared for the nation as an expression of high regard by the Texas

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1 House of Representatives.