

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Rio Vista Farm in Socorro played a central role in an  
2 often neglected chapter in our nation's history; and

3           WHEREAS, Established in 1915 as the El Paso Poor Farm, the  
4 site offered shelter to increasing numbers of people, including  
5 many neglected children; it hosted a variety of public welfare  
6 programs during the Great Depression and provided a temporary base  
7 for the Civilian Conservation Corps; from 1951 to 1964, it served as  
8 a reception and processing center for the Bracero Program, a  
9 massive guest-worker initiative first launched by the  
10 U.S. government to remedy farm labor shortages during World War II;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, More than 80,000 braceros, or manual laborers,  
13 passed through Rio Vista Farm annually; they were subjected to  
14 humiliating medical and psychological examinations, as well as  
15 fumigation with DDT, before being bused to jobs across the country;  
16 after fulfilling their contracts, often in harsh circumstances,  
17 many of the workers were repatriated; others became U.S. citizens,  
18 and their descendants today number in the millions; and

19           WHEREAS, In another aspect of its history, Rio Vista Farm  
20 provided job opportunities for many people born in the United  
21 States; citizens were employed in processing the legal  
22 documentation required of braceros, as well as in transportation,  
23 health care, and other areas; and

24           WHEREAS, From the early 1980s until the mid-1990s, part of

1 Rio Vista Farm was used by the El Paso County Sheriff's Office for a  
2 training academy; eventually a few buildings were repurposed for  
3 use as city administrative offices and as the Rio Vista Community  
4 Center; the site was designated as a National Treasure by the  
5 National Trust for Historic Preservation in 2016, but most of the  
6 adobe structures are still in dire need of restoration; and

7 WHEREAS, Rio Vista Farm provides a window into a vital part of  
8 the American experience, and its preservation will allow future  
9 generations to more fully appreciate the intrepid spirit of our  
10 forebears and the contributions made by the braceros who helped  
11 this country during wartime and worked to secure a brighter future;  
12 now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
14 Legislature hereby recognize the historic significance of Rio Vista  
15 Farm in Socorro and commend all those involved in the effort to  
16 maintain this site and raise awareness of its importance.

González of El Paso

Bonnen of Brazoria	Guerra	Noble
Allen	Guillen	Oliverson
Allison	Gutierrez	Ortega
Anchia	Harless	Pacheco
Anderson	Harris	Paddie
Ashby	Hefner	Parker
Bailes	Hernandez	Patterson
Beckley	Herrero	Paul
Bell of Kaufman	Hinojosa	Perez
Bell of Montgomery	Holland	Phelan
Bernal	Howard	Price
Biedermann	Huberty	Ramos
Blanco	Hunter	Raney
Bohac	Israel	Raymond
Bonnen of Galveston	E. Johnson of Dallas	Reynolds
Bowers	J. Johnson of Dallas	Rodriguez
Buckley	Johnson of Harris	Romero, Jr.
Bucy	Kacal	Rose
Burns	King of Hemphill	Rosenthal
Burrows	King of Parker	Sanford
Button	King of Uvalde	Schaefer
Cain	Klick	Shaheen
Calanni	Krause	Sheffield
Canales	Kuempel	Sherman, Sr.
Capriglione	Lambert	Shine
Clardy	Landgraf	Smith
Cole	Lang	Smithee
Coleman	Larson	Springer
Collier	Leach	Stephenson
Cortez	Leman	Stickland
Craddick	Longoria	Stucky
Cyrrier	Lopez	Swanson
Darby	Lozano	Talarico
Davis of Dallas	Lucio III	Thierry
Davis of Harris	Martinez	Thompson of Brazoria
Dean	Martinez Fischer	Thompson of Harris
Deshotel	Metcalf	Tinderholt
Dominguez	Meyer	Toth
Dutton	Meza	Turner of Dallas
Farrar	Middleton	Turner of Tarrant
Fierro	Miller	VanDeaver
Flynn	Minjarez	Vo
Frank	Moody	Walle
Frullo	Morales	White
Geren	Morrison	Wilson
Gervin-Hawkins	Muñoz, Jr.	Wray
Goldman	Murphy	Wu
González of Dallas	Murr	Zedler
González of El Paso	Neave	Zerwas
Goodwin	Nevárez	Zwiener

H.R. No. 1945

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1945 was adopted by the House on May 23, 2019, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House