

By: Nevárez

H.R. No. 2103

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Center for Big Bend Studies at Sul Ross State
2 University has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the
3 Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia of Mexico and the
4 city of Ágreða, Spain, to pursue archaeological and historical
5 research; and

6 WHEREAS, SRSU has enjoyed a relationship with Mexican
7 research institutions since the 1930s, and the CBBS renewed this
8 relationship on July 18, 2017, by signing a memorandum of
9 understanding with INAH, the federal agency that oversees all
10 archaeological research in Mexico; this agreement seeks to secure
11 viable archaeological and historical research areas in Big Bend
12 National Park in southwest Texas and the La Junta de los Rios region
13 of northern Mexico; and

14 WHEREAS, On April 12, 2019, the CBBS also executed an MOU with
15 the city of Ágreða; situated in the Soria province of Spain, Ágreða
16 was the home of Sor María de Jesús, the 17th century abbess of the
17 Convento de la Concepción popularly known as "the Lady in Blue"; her
18 inspirational writings were brought to Texas by Franciscan friars,
19 and one of them, Antonio de Olivares, founded Mission San Antonio de
20 Valero, now known as the Alamo, on May 1, 1718; the mission's
21 original location at San Pedro Springs Park in San Antonio has been
22 recognized by CBBS, INAH, the city of Ágreða, Univision 41 San
23 Antonio, Texas Before The Alamo, the Bexar County Historical
24 Commission, and other entities; and

1 WHEREAS, Early research into the Spanish, Mestizo, and
2 Mexican history of Texas was conducted by Herbert Eugene Bolton in
3 the Spanish archives in Mexico City, and his textbook, *With the*
4 *Makers of Texas: A Source Reader in Texas History*, influenced the
5 work of Adina de Zavala, an early member of the Daughters of the
6 Republic of Texas; in addition to leading the effort to save the
7 Convento at the Alamo from destruction in 1908, she helped found the
8 Texas Historical Commission and published a book based on Bolton's
9 research titled *History and Legends of the Alamo and Other Missions*
10 *In and Around San Antonio*; and

11 WHEREAS, Bolton's research also influenced the work of
12 J. Charles Kelley, a pioneering archaeologist of the Borderlands
13 region who first conceived of a center for Big Bend studies in the
14 1930s; after the founding of the INAH in 1939, he worked with the
15 institute on several large-scale excavations in Chihuahua and
16 Zacatecas between 1949 and 1993, and as an adjunct professor at Sul
17 Ross, he helped establish the CBBS in 1987, freely sharing his
18 lifetime of accumulated knowledge with other researchers; and

19 WHEREAS, The history of the Big Bend region is inextricably
20 linked to the histories of Spain and Mexico, and the research
21 agreements between CBBS, INAH, and the city of Ágreda will provide
22 invaluable insight into the proud legacy of the Spanish and Mestizo
23 founders of Texas; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
25 Legislature hereby commemorate the signing of the memorandum of
26 understanding between the Center for Big Bend Studies, the
27 Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia of Mexico, and the

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1 city of Ágreða and extend to all involved sincere best wishes for
2 success in their important work; and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared
4 for CBBS, INAH, and Ágreða as an expression of high regard by the
5 Texas House of Representatives.