

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 324

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

WHEREAS, Located in Maverick County along the United States-Mexico border in southwest Texas, Eagle Pass was established in 1849 and serves as the county seat; the city was originally named El Paso del Águila because of the frequent flights of eagles over the area; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Today, City of Eagle Pass officials are committed to working together to create jobs, encourage young people, and improve the quality of life in their region; among the accomplishments in recent years are a renovated public library, revitalized downtown, completion of infrastructure projects at ports of entry, upgraded parks with the addition of a skate park, and construction of a new public safety building; and

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

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

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WHEREAS, The city hosted the first Babe Ruth World Series last summer with teams from throughout the United States, and the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas provides an important source of jobs, revenue, and tourism; visitors to the region can also learn about area history at Fort Duncan Park and San Juan Plaza and enjoy outdoor recreation at Maverick County Lake; moreover, they can stroll the streets of historic downtown Eagle Pass, which has been designated as a Texas Main Street City by the Texas Historical Commission; and

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

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

Flores

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 6, 2019.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate