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By:  Guerra H.R. No. 537

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Tejano Monument was unveiled on the grounds of the State Capitol on March 29, 2012, and it has since become an iconic symbol for the sweeping influence that Tejanos have had on the story of Texas; and

WHEREAS, The idea for the monument was first proposed by McAllen physician Cayetano Barrera, who visited the Capitol in 2000 and noted that there were no statues that recognized the contributions of Hispanic Texans; Dr. Barrera's concern was met with widespread agreement, and soon, Mexican American leaders took the first steps to bring the Tejano Monument to fruition by forming a private fundraising committee, which went on to raise approximately $2 million for the project's completion; a series of legislative bills were passed to authorize, fund, design, and build the Tejano Monument, and Armando Hinojosa of Laredo was contracted to be the sculptor; and

WHEREAS, The Tejano Monument pays tribute to the legacy of the state's Spanish and Mexican pioneers and settlers; it features a 20-foot-long granite base and 10 bronze statues depicting a Spanish explorer, a mounted vaquero, a pair of longhorn cattle, and a ranchero family; each statue was sculpted with careful attention to historical accuracy, and the monument is accompanied by five bronze-relief plaques that trace the history of Tejanos from the 16th through the 20th centuries; the monument debuted to great ceremony on March 29, 2012, with then-Governor Rick Perry and other state officials and public speakers delivering addresses to a crowd that included descendants of some of the founding Tejano families; and

WHEREAS, Though the original Tejanos arrived on Texas soil for a multitude of reasons, they all played a crucial role in shaping the narrative of the Lone Star State, and for nearly a decade, the Tejano Monument has stood as a resplendent tribute to Tejanos' contributions, their history, and the common heritage they share with all Texans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the dedication of the Tejano Monument on the Texas Capitol grounds and extend sincere appreciation to all those who were involved in the planning, funding, design, and creation of this notable landmark.