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By:  Raymond H.R. No. 1099

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association plays a vital role in the preservation of one of the most significant historic routes through the Lone Star State; and

WHEREAS, Stretching from the Rio Grande to Louisiana, El Camino Real de los Tejas began as a series of trails and trade routes used by the indigenous peoples of Texas; it was named for a prominent Caddo group known as the Tejas, a Caddo word that means "friend" or "ally"; and

WHEREAS, In the 17th century, the route was used by Spanish explorers, soldiers, and priests as they moved into this vast region; under Spanish rule, the trail became known as a camino real, or royal road, serving as a political, economic, and cultural link between Mexico City and what is now East Texas and Louisiana; in later years, it was used by ranchers for cattle drives, by Anglo settlers emigrating to Texas, and by slaves seeking their freedom; and

WHEREAS, In 1915, the Texas Legislature appropriated money for a survey of the historic trail, and in 1918, markers were set up along a route of the trail commonly known as the Old San Antonio Road; in 1929, the legislature designated the route as one of the historic trails of Texas, and in 2004, it was designated by the U.S. Congress as a National Historic Trail, running from Laredo to Natchitoches, Louisiana, with branches passing through San Antonio, Austin, and Nacogdoches; El Camino Real de los Tejas was also recognized as a Texas historic highway by the state legislature in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Established as a nonprofit organization in 2007, El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association seeks to preserve the historic integrity of the trail, to educate the public about its significance, and to promote resource development and tourism along the trail; it maintains strong partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies as well as with organizations in Mexico and Spain; originally founded at Texas State University in San Marcos, the association now calls Austin home, and it benefits from the efforts of its full-time executive director, as well as its staff and the members of its board; and

WHEREAS, For several centuries, El Camino Real de los Tejas was the main overland route from the valley of the Rio Grande to the watershed of the Red River, and by celebrating and protecting its heritage, El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association is performing an invaluable service for the citizens of Texas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the work of El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association and extend to all those affiliated with the association sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.