

By: Raymond

H.R. No. 1099

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

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

1 also recognized as a Texas historic highway by the state  
2 legislature in 2011; and

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

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

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

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