

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 135

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Wilson County Historical Commission, the Wilson  
2 County Historical Society, and the City of Floresville celebrated  
3 the dedication of an Official Texas Historical Marker for Rancho de  
4 Pataguilla on April 5, 2025; and

5 WHEREAS, Around 1740, the vast grazing lands of Rancho de  
6 Pataguilla were granted to Mission San Juan Capistrano; the grant  
7 encompassed over 66,000 acres, extending from Mission San Juan and  
8 sprawling out through Bexar County and what would become Wilson and  
9 Karnes Counties; on the north, it was neighbored by Rancho el  
10 Paistle, lands allocated to Mission Concepcion; the eastern  
11 boundary started at San Bartolome in El Rincón and extended seven  
12 leagues up the eastern bank of Cibolo Creek to the "healing  
13 springs," present-day Sutherland Springs; and

14 WHEREAS, The rancho primarily served as grazing land for  
15 larger animals, and by 1762, it was estimated to have 3,500 sheep  
16 and almost as many cattle, along with mules, donkeys, horses, and  
17 oxen; vaqueros from Mission San Juan likely drove livestock there  
18 on a regular basis to sustain the Indians and other residents; in  
19 1782, private ranchers Simon Arocha, the militia captain at San  
20 Antonio de Béxar, and Juan Arocha petitioned Spanish Governor  
21 Domingo Cabello for eight leagues of land near Calavaras Creek at  
22 Rancho de Pataguilla, more formally known as Rancho de San Rafael de  
23 Pataguilla; the brothers stated that they had lived on the ranch  
24 since 1766 and kept cattle corrals on Pataguilla Creek; on June 20,

1 1782, their request was granted; their property, spanning some  
2 34,000 acres, was eventually subdivided among their heirs; during  
3 the 1800s, after the missions secularized, communities and large  
4 ranches sprang up on the land; Jose Maria Flores bought a tract from  
5 the property, and his daughter, Josefa Flores Barker, later donated  
6 some of her inheritance to Wilson County; that land became the  
7 permanent county seat of Floresville, which was named for the  
8 Flores family and established in 1872; and

9 WHEREAS, For nearly 300 years, Rancho de Pataguilla has  
10 contributed to the rich heritage of the region, and the ranch's  
11 special role in the history of South Texas is truly deserving of  
12 this special recognition; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas  
14 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby commemorate the dedication  
15 of the Official Texas Historical Marker for Rancho de Pataguilla  
16 and commend all those involved in securing this designation for  
17 their efforts.