

By: Guerra

H.R. No. 767

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Many proud Texans are gathering in celebration of  
2 Tejano Day on April 6, 2025; and

3 WHEREAS, Tejano men and women were the founders of the  
4 state's oldest permanent communities, including the cities of San  
5 Antonio, Nacogdoches, Victoria, Goliad, and El Paso; members of the  
6 Navarro, Ruiz, Menchaca, Arocha, and Seguin families were  
7 instrumental in settling the region and negotiating peace with the  
8 Comanches and other tribes; the present-day names of many of our  
9 state's waterways and other natural features were bestowed by  
10 Tejanos of Spanish, Mexican, African, and Indigenous descent; and

11 WHEREAS, On April 6, 1813, Tejanos became the first settlers  
12 to proclaim independence for Texas; that year, many of them fought  
13 the Spanish in the Battle of Medina, the deadliest military action  
14 in Texas history; prominent Tejanos José Antonio Navarro and José  
15 Francisco Ruiz were signers of the Texas Declaration of  
16 Independence in 1836; among the numerous Tejanos who sacrificed  
17 their lives during the Texas Revolution were two heroes of the  
18 Alamo, Gregorio Esparza and José Toribio Losoya; troops led by  
19 Plácido Benavides fought bravely across South Texas, and the men of  
20 Juan Seguin's company helped secure the decisive victory at the  
21 Battle of San Jacinto; and

22 WHEREAS, Many Tejanos were early champions of free speech,  
23 freedom of the press, and public education, and that tradition has  
24 continued; in the 20th century, prominent advocates for these

1 essential values included journalist Jovita Idár, bilingual  
2 education activist Felix Tijerina, and civil rights attorney  
3 John J. Herrera; countless Tejanos have served with enormous  
4 distinction in the armed forces, among them recipients of the  
5 military's highest commendation for valor, the Medal of Honor;  
6 World War II veteran Héctor P. García founded the American GI Forum  
7 of Texas to secure the rights of fellow Hispanic veterans; and

8 WHEREAS, Today, Texas culture reflects the wide-ranging  
9 contributions of Tejanos; their rodeos, expert horsemanship, and  
10 longhorn cattle-raising traditions became part of Western  
11 identity; Tejanos fused the flavors and ingredients of Mexico and  
12 the United States to create the iconic Tex-Mex cuisine, and they  
13 combined musical styles to develop popular new genres; Lydia  
14 Mendoza, Flaco Jiménez, Selena, and other Tejano greats have  
15 influenced artists throughout Texas and far beyond our borders; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2021, the Texas Legislature officially  
17 designated April 6 as Tejano Day, and this annual observance  
18 provides a welcome opportunity to recognize the vital role that  
19 Tejanos have played in the epic saga of the Lone Star State for more  
20 than 300 years; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas  
22 Legislature hereby commemorate Tejano Day 2025.