

By: Anchia

H.R. No. 38

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The observance of Basque American Day on June 29,
2 2018, provides an ideal opportunity to celebrate a rich and
3 venerable heritage; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2016, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in
5 Washington, D.C., highlighted the culture of the Basques; a number
6 of state officials across the country set aside June 29 of that year
7 to recognize Basque Americans, who trace their roots to one of the
8 oldest indigenous enclaves in Europe, one that spans the Pyrenees
9 Mountains in northern Spain and southwestern France; and

10 WHEREAS, Basques were among the earliest Europeans to visit
11 the Americas, beginning with the earliest whale and cod fishing on
12 the east coast, and transatlantic commercial trading; Christopher
13 Columbus' flagship, the *Santa Maria*, was built in Basque shipyards,
14 and all three vessels in his expedition had Basque expert sailors as
15 crew members; as the exploration and settlement of the New World
16 proceeded, Basques were especially involved in building and manning
17 ships and maintaining the commercial trade that kept supplies
18 flowing to American colonies; and

19 WHEREAS, Many Basques played a prominent role in the early
20 history of Texas; in 1541, a number of Basque men accompanied
21 Francisco Vásquez de Coronado on his quest for the Seven Cities of
22 Gold; over a century later, Basque priest Francisco Ayeta founded
23 three missions near present-day El Paso, which were among the first
24 European outposts in the state; Juan Bautista Elguézabal was

1 interim governor of Texas at the time of the Louisiana Purchase, and
2 his son, Juan José Elguézabal, born in San Antonio de Béxar, later
3 served in the same capacity; Agustín de Itúrbide, the
4 self-proclaimed emperor of Mexico, signed the first permit for
5 Stephen F. Austin's Anglo American colony in 1823; and

6 WHEREAS, During the 19th and early 20th centuries, waves of
7 immigrants from the Basque region sought greater opportunity in the
8 United States, principally in the West, and they won admiration for
9 their strong work ethic and expertise in business and agriculture;
10 Basques have contributed to the development of our nation since its
11 inception, and today, proud Americans of Basque descent continue to
12 enrich its culture and enhance its prosperity; now, therefore, be
13 it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
15 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby recognize June 29, 2018, as
16 Basque American Day.