

By: Nevárez

H.R. No. 2049

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Center for Big Bend Studies at Sul Ross State  
2 University has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the  
3 Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia of Mexico and the  
4 city of Ágreða, Spain, to pursue archaeological and historical  
5 research; and

6           WHEREAS, SRSU has enjoyed a relationship with Mexican  
7 research institutions since the 1930s, and the CBBS renewed this  
8 relationship on July 18, 2017, by signing a memorandum of  
9 understanding with INAH, the federal agency that oversees all  
10 archaeological research in Mexico; this agreement seeks to secure  
11 viable archaeological and historical research areas in Big Bend  
12 National Park in southwest Texas and the La Junta de los Rios region  
13 of northern Mexico; and

14           WHEREAS, On April 12, 2019, the CBBS also executed an MOU with  
15 the city of Ágreða; situated in the Soria province of Spain, Ágreða  
16 was the home of Sor María de Jesús, the 17th century abbess of the  
17 Convento de la Concepción popularly known as "the Lady in Blue"; her  
18 inspirational writings were brought to Texas by Franciscan friars,  
19 and one of them, Antonio de Olivares, founded Mission San Antonio de  
20 Valero, now known as the Alamo, on May 1, 1718; the mission's  
21 original location at San Pedro Springs Park in San Antonio has been  
22 recognized by CBBS, INAH, the city of Ágreða, and other entities;  
23 and

24           WHEREAS, Early research into the Spanish, Mestizo, and

1 Mexican history of Texas was conducted by Herbert Eugene Bolton in  
2 the Spanish archives in Mexico City, and his textbook, *With the*  
3 *Makers of Texas: A Source Reader in Texas History*, influenced the  
4 work of Adina de Zavala, an early member of the Daughters of the  
5 Republic of Texas; in addition to leading the effort to save the  
6 Convento at the Alamo from destruction in 1908, she helped found the  
7 Texas Historical Commission and published a book based on Bolton's  
8 research titled *History and Legends of the Alamo and Other Missions*  
9 *In and Around San Antonio*; and

10 WHEREAS, Bolton's research also influenced the work of  
11 J. Charles Kelley, a pioneering archaeologist of the Borderlands  
12 region who first conceived of a center for Big Bend studies in the  
13 1930s; after the founding of the INAH in 1939, he worked with the  
14 institute on several large-scale excavations in Chihuahua and  
15 Zacatecas between 1949 and 1993, and as an adjunct professor at Sul  
16 Ross, he helped establish the CBBS in 1987, freely sharing his  
17 lifetime of accumulated knowledge with other researchers; and

18 WHEREAS, The history of the Big Bend region is inextricably  
19 linked to the histories of Spain and Mexico, and the research  
20 agreements between CBBS, INAH, and the city of Ágreda will provide  
21 invaluable insight into the proud legacy of the Spanish and Mestizo  
22 founders of Texas; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas  
24 Legislature hereby commemorate the signing of the memorandum of  
25 understanding between the Center for Big Bend Studies, the  
26 Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia of Mexico, and the  
27 city of Ágreda and extend to all involved sincere best wishes for

1 success in their important work; and, be it further

2           RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared  
3 for CBBS, INAH, and Ágreda as an expression of high regard by the  
4 Texas House of Representatives.