

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 725

**WHEREAS**, The descendants of Gregorio and Ana Esparza are gathering in Floresville on July 13, 2019, for their much anticipated family reunion; and

**WHEREAS**, Gregorio Esparza was one of the last Alamo defenders to join the garrison during the Texas Revolution, contributing to the cause as Juan Seguín's best gunner and a small artillery expert; he was slain in battle while manning a cannon at the back of the chapel, but his wife, Ana Salazar de Esparza, and their children, Maria de Jesus Castro and Enrique, Manuel, and Francisco Esparza, were among the few to survive; and

**WHEREAS**, Following the Texans' defeat, Ms. Esparza and her husband's brother, Francisco, who served as a soldier in the Mexican Army under General Cos, obtained permission to bury Gregorio Esparza's body; he was the only defender of the garrison allowed Christian burial rites; and

**WHEREAS**, Decades passed, and in the 1860s, the Esparzas' three sons received preemptive claims in Atascosa County, where they settled with their families to farm and ranch; Enrique Esparza and his wife, Gertrudes Hernandez Esparza, deeded five acres of their land to the Catholic Diocese and were instrumental in establishing the county's first Catholic church and school; and

**WHEREAS**, Over the years, the descendants of Gregorio and Ana Esparza have come together to share in one another's company and to celebrate the rich heritage that has united them for generations, and it is indeed a pleasure to recognize this special occasion; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 86th Legislature, hereby commemorate the sixth Gregorio and Ana Esparza Family Reunion and extend to all those in attendance sincere best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable event; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for the family as an expression of high regard by the Texas Senate.

Flores

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 9, 2019.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate