

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 176

Honoring the San Fernando Cathedral and the city of San Antonio on the occasion of the completion of the cathedral's renovation.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 3, 2003

Mr. GONZALEZ (for himself and Mr. RODRIGUEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Honoring the San Fernando Cathedral and the city of San Antonio on the occasion of the completion of the cathedral's renovation.

Whereas San Fernando Cathedral was founded in 1731, and was the first parish church in the State of Texas, which was then the Spanish province of Coahuila;

Whereas, at the request of the Crown of Spain, settlers from the Canary Islands established a colony in Texas and founded the San Fernando Cathedral in 1731, naming it La Villa de San Fernando after the king who fought to drive out the Moors from Spain in the 13th century;

Whereas the cathedral is the oldest building in Texas and the oldest cathedral in the Nation;

Whereas San Fernando Cathedral has survived numerous fires, floods, wars, and battles, including the Battle of the Alamo in 1836;

Whereas the cathedral has existed under the governments of Spain, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the United States, and, during the Civil War, the Confederate States of America;

Whereas a 6-year project to renovate San Fernando is now complete;

Whereas the newly-restored San Fernando Cathedral serves as a tribute to the traditional Spanish artwork used in Spanish Colonial churches in the Americas, and includes a hand carved stone baptismal font that is believed to be a gift of King Charles III of Spain in 1759, and a 24-foot retablo handcrafted in Mexico that is a new addition to the cathedral;

Whereas after the United States took control of Texas, the cathedral served the Hispanic people through their language, customs, and religious traditions;

Whereas San Fernando Cathedral, throughout its history, has been of particular significance to the Hispanic community, and is a center for great Hispanic traditions such as the annual Passion Play, which attracts 25,000 people;

Whereas San Fernando Cathedral is the spiritual center of San Antonio, with over 4,000 people participating in masses at the cathedral each week;

Whereas the San Antonio City Council is blessed at San Fernando Cathedral at the beginning of each term; and

Whereas today San Fernando Cathedral is helping address the critical needs of the community by providing social

and educational services to the poor: Now, therefore, be
it and and and and

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives honors
- 2 the San Fernando Cathedral and the city of San Antonio
- 3 on the occasion of the completion of the cathedral's ren-
- 4 ovation.

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