



EL PASO COUNTY
STATE OF TEXAS

RESOLUTION



WHEREAS, Benito Juárez, a Zapotec Indian, was a great constitutional president of Mexico; and,

WHEREAS, Benito Juarez and Abraham Lincoln were contemporaries and great men, who respected and supported each other while their countries were beset by civil war; and,

WHEREAS, President Juarez retreated to Paso del Norte in 1865-1866 during the French Intervention, befriending the Mexican inhabitants and their American neighbors; and,

WHEREAS, when residing at Paso del Norte, Benito Juarez heard citizen concerns about the changing course of the Rio Grande, placing Mexican farms on the American side of the river. He initiated a complaint with the U.S. Government requesting resolution. In 1888, Paso del Norte honored the president by re-naming their town Ciudad Juarez; and,

WHEREAS, the boundary dispute was resolved through the 1963 Chamizal Treaty when land was exchanged peacefully between Mexico and the United States during the Cold War; and,

WHEREAS, a statue to Abraham Lincoln was erected near the Parque Chamizal in 1964, and in a spirit of reciprocity, the Chamizal National Memorial and the XII Travelers Memorial of the Southwest will unveil a bronze statue of Benito Juarez by Ethan Taliesin Houser facing towards the Lincoln monument. It depicts the president as an uneducated Oaxacan shepherd and as the President of Mexico, each holding a book as a symbol of education; and,

WHEREAS, the day of the unveiling is when Mexican President Adolfo Lopez Mateos and U.S. President Lyndon Baines Johnson's embraced at the center of the Santa Fe Bridge between El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua 58 years ago, in a gesture of friendship to affirm the Chamizal Treaty.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the El Paso County Judge and Commissioners Court recognize September 25th as:

**“BENITO JUAREZ, CHILD TO MAN”
“CHAMIZAL DAY”**

SIGNED, this 19th day of September 2022

Commissioner Carlos Leon, Pct. 1

Commissioner David C. Stout, Pct. 2

Commissioner Iliana Holguin, Pct. 3

Commissioner Carl L. Robinson, Pct. 4

County Judge Ricardo A. Samaniego