

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1186

Expressing the sense of Congress that Fort San Juan holds a significant place in the early history of North Carolina and of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 21, 2018

Mr. MEADOWS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that Fort San Juan holds a significant place in the early history of North Carolina and of the United States.

Whereas Fort San Juan was originally settled by the Spanish in western North Carolina in 1567;

Whereas Fort San Juan predates the English settlement on Roanoke Island by 20 years and the settlement at Jamestown by 40 years;

Whereas Fort San Juan was the first European settlement in the interior of the United States;

Whereas Captain Juan Pardo built Fort San Juan as part of the greater mission of the Spanish exploring North America from Santa Elena (modern-day Parris Island,

South Carolina) into what are now Tennessee and Alabama under Hernando de Soto;

Whereas Fort San Juan served as the base for Captain Juan Pardo's expedition into the Appalachian Mountains in search for silver mines;

Whereas Fort San Juan after 18 months was destroyed in a fire after the relationship between the Spanish settlers and Native Americans at Joara deteriorated;

Whereas Fort San Juan was rediscovered near Morganton, North Carolina, between the years of 2004 and 2006; and

Whereas archaeologists investigating the site have expressed their appreciation for the cooperation of the landowners, the Berry family, for preserving the site and providing access: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) recognizes the importance of Fort San Juan
3 for the early history of North Carolina;

4 (2) recognizes that Fort San Juan reshapes the
5 historical narrative around the United States earliest
6 history; and

7 (3) encourages the people of the United States
8 to continue studying Captain Juan Pardo's expedi-
9 tion, visiting the ruins of Fort San Juan, and edu-
10 cating the people of North Carolina and the United
11 States about Fort San Juan's role in North Carolina
12 and the United States earliest history.