

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman Charlie Gonzalez commended Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar for officially authorizing the San Antonio Franciscan Missions for nomination to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) [World Heritage List](#)

. The announcement occurred during the Secretary's visit to the historic Mission Concepción. Congressman Gonzalez issued the following statement regarding the announcement:

"I would like to thank Secretary Salazar and the Administration for recognizing the importance of the Missions to our culture and national identity. Today's announcement brings the Missions one step closer to a designation that warrants international prestige and local economic benefits.

"Modern San Antonio owes much of its legacy to the steadfast presence of the Missions. They remain an enduring reminder of the resilience of a community and its people."

Throughout his tenure in Congress, Congressman Gonzalez has been a strong supporter for the San Antonio Missions and last year, he wrote an official letter of support for the nomination to the World Heritage List.

Secretary Salazar's visit to the urban parks of San Antonio is part of President [Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative](#)

and

builds on the Obama administration's recently-announced

[National Tourism and Travel Strategy](#)

, which delivered on President Obama's call in January for a national strategy to promote domestic and international travel opportunities throughout the United States.

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