

beginning days of enlightenment in this wonder-region of romance and wealth.

Over this Old Spanish Trail, extending back into the centuries, the early pioneers of Texas traveled - over it drove the daring stage coach - over it came those who fired the first shot for Texas independence - over it journeyed the martyrs who died at the Alamo - over it marched Sam Houston and his illustrious compatriots to win our freedom on the field of San Jacinto.

In keeping with this heroic and deathless past, we here today, plant our dedicatory and these romantic and historic surroundings, this Zero Monument on this transcontinental highway, in the hope and faith that as long as gravity swings the planets, and the waters of the San Antonio River seek the level of the sea, this highway extending from the stormy Atlantic to the calm Pacific, with its ever-changing panorama of beauty, will be used by the people to preserve in peace and perpetuate in power a government worthy the lives of those who won our freedom and made immortal the Old Spanish Trail.