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### Del Rio Middle School Student Selected as 2018 Save Texas History Essay Contest Finalist

Last month, Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush announced the fourth- and seventh-grade winners of the 2018 Save Texas History Essay Contest, sponsored by the Texas General Land Office's Save Texas History Program. Clarissa M. Gonzalez, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Del Rio Middle School was named as one of 5 state finalists.

The Essay Contest encourages students to answer the question, "What history in your community, or in Texas, is worth saving?" Clarissa's essay, titled "San Felipe Springs" highlighted the need to preserve Del Rio's most precious natural resource. As a finalist, Clarissa received \$100 courtesy of the Rotary Club of Austin and the Sons of the Republic of Texas, and a Texas flag that has flown over the northernmost point of the Republic of Texas (in present-day Wyoming). All winners and finalists also received a Save Texas History backpack and a replica of a historic map from the GLO Archives map collection, and a Certificate of Achievement signed by Commissioner Bush.

"As a former history teacher it's especially rewarding to encourage students to learn more about our state's rich history by participating in the annual Save Texas History Essay Contest," said Commissioner Bush. "I want to thank all students who submitted essays as well as the teachers and parents who encouraged them to participate. The submissions were thoughtful and creative examples of how future generations of Texans appreciate the rich history in their local communities and around the state, and what these students would do to save Texas history. Congratulations to everyone who won and to all who participated."

