

By: Martinez

H.R. No. 274

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A distinguished delegation from South Texas is
2 visiting Austin on February 22, 2023, to celebrate Rio Grande
3 Valley Day at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Enjoying a strategic location on the Gulf of Mexico
5 and along the Mexican border, the Rio Grande Valley was an important
6 ranching region when Texas became the nation's 28th state in 1845;
7 over time, the economy shifted from ranching to agriculture, and
8 the Valley became the state's center of citrus and vegetable
9 production; and

10 WHEREAS, In the 1960s, industry flourished and international
11 trade became increasingly prominent; the region has contributed
12 significantly to the tremendous increase in commerce across the
13 United States-Mexico border, with more than 1,152,000 trucks, 11.7
14 million cars carrying 24.3 million passengers, 28,000 buses
15 carrying over 300,000 passengers, and 6.2 million pedestrians
16 crossing Rio Grande Valley ports of entry and averaging more than
17 \$140 million in goods and services per day, with over \$51 billion in
18 commercial trade per year flowing across various land ports of
19 entry; the Rio Grande Valley is an economic powerhouse for the State
20 of Texas with approximately \$12.5 billion in taxable sales recorded
21 in reporting year 2022; and

22 WHEREAS, The Valley has around 1.4 million residents, with
23 approximately 835,000 individuals under the age of 25, and local
24 and state officials have focused on the need to expand access to

1 higher education and health care, strengthen the workforce,
2 increase transportation and ports of entry infrastructure, and
3 increase funding for public education; The University of Texas Rio
4 Grande Valley serves some 30,000 students; the UTRGV School of
5 Medicine is in its seventh year of operation with numerous GME
6 programs and patient care sites; and

7 WHEREAS, The six higher education institutions in the Rio
8 Grande Valley, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Texas A&M
9 University McAllen Higher Education Center, Texas A&M University
10 Health Science Center, South Texas College, Texas Southmost
11 College, and Texas State Technical College, serve a student
12 population of over 90,000; and

13 WHEREAS, Major sponsors for the day's legislative event
14 include the Cities of Brownsville, San Benito, Primera, Palm
15 Valley, McAllen, and Edinburg, ERO Architects, Gulf Aviation, the
16 Cameron County Regional Mobility Authority, M&S De Leon Enterprises
17 LLC, RGV Grant Consultants LLC, Cameron County Drainage District
18 No. 5, Hidalgo County Precinct No. 4, JL Powers & Associates, Alamo
19 Chamber of Commerce, the Weslaco, Edinburg, Pharr, Mission,
20 Harlingen, and San Benito Economic Development Corporations,
21 Prairie View A&M University, Supporting World Hope, the Rio Grande
22 Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization, VTX1 Companies, Texas
23 State Technical College, the Port of Harlingen Authority, Driscoll
24 Children's Hospital, the Brownsville Community Improvement
25 Corporation, Killam Development, Texas Gas Service, the Greater
26 Chamber of Harlingen, the Texas Oil & Gas Association, Texas
27 Regional Bank, AT&T, and Atlas Hall & Rodriguez, all of which are

1 promoting greater regional cooperation in the 21st century; and

2 WHEREAS, A vibrant region with a rich heritage, the Rio
3 Grande Valley is poised to take advantage of tremendous
4 opportunities for continued economic development, and it is indeed
5 most fitting to honor Valley residents for their dedication to
6 building a bright and prosperous future for the area; now,
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
9 Legislature hereby recognize February 22, 2023, as Rio Grande
10 Valley Day at the State Capitol and extend to all participants
11 sincere best wishes for a productive and enjoyable visit.