

By: Wise

H.R. No. 117

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Weslaco Public Library's summer reading program
2 received national attention at the Center for Summer Learning
3 conference sponsored by Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore,
4 Maryland, March 18-19, 2004; and

5 WHEREAS, Library Director Virginia Allain traveled to the
6 Baltimore meeting to present a session called "Success Stories from
7 Reading Is Fundamental," which focused on the Weslaco library's
8 lauded summer reading program; one of hundreds of Reading Is
9 Fundamental grant recipients in the country, the Weslaco program
10 was singled out to be featured at the "Summer Learning for All:
11 Programs, Policy, and Research" conference; and

12 WHEREAS, Incorporating two book giveaways each summer that
13 provide free books to approximately 1,000 children, the Weslaco
14 library uses reading mentors and a wide array of activities
15 designed to improve children's reading skills; while most library
16 summer reading programs focus only on children, the Weslaco library
17 restructured its program to include the whole family, and each
18 summer hundreds of parents, grandparents, teens, and toddlers
19 participate in its reading and library activities; and

20 WHEREAS, The Weslaco Public Library summer reading program
21 has benefited from grants from numerous organizations, including
22 Rotary International, the Viburnum Foundation, the First Lady
23 Family Literacy program, the Texas Book Festival, and the Friends
24 of the Library; other factors that Ms. Allain has credited for the

1 success of the library's programs are the support of local
2 businesses and professionals, the Weslaco Independent School
3 District, a dedicated staff, and a city government that recognizes
4 the importance of improving literacy and increasing interest in
5 reading in the community; and

6 WHEREAS, Established in 1948, the Weslaco Public Library
7 received national attention in 2002 when its Project READ program
8 was one of three programs commended in Weslaco's selection as a
9 winner of the All-America City Award, the oldest and most
10 prestigious community recognition prize in the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, Public libraries serve a vital function in the
12 communities they serve, and the Weslaco Public Library has
13 distinguished itself as a model of excellence with its innovative
14 programs and the outstanding service it provides to area residents;
15 now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
17 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby congratulate the Weslaco
18 Public Library on the national attention that it has deservedly
19 received and extend to all those associated with this fine
20 institution best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for the library as an expression of high regard by the
23 Texas House of Representatives.