

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of the city of McAllen are gathering at
2 the State Capitol on March 30, 2005, to celebrate their community's
3 contributions to the vitality of the Lone Star State; and

4 WHEREAS, Located in southern Hidalgo County, the site of
5 present-day McAllen was developed by Spanish settler Jose Manuel
6 Gomez, who founded the Santa Anita Ranch in 1797; the ranch grew in
7 size and passed through the hands of several heirs to his
8 great-granddaughter, Salome Balli, who married John McAllen;
9 together they continued to add to the property and renamed it
10 McAllen Ranch; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1904, Mr. McAllen and other early settlers
12 established a town site called West McAllen, where the St. Louis,
13 Brownsville, & Mexico Railroad arrived a year later; additional
14 developers founded East McAllen in 1907, but the two towns
15 eventually merged and welcomed several businesses, churches,
16 residences, and a newspaper; by 1920, the city's population
17 exceeded 5,000 residents and continued to grow steadily; and

18 WHEREAS, In the last three decades, McAllen has become a
19 center for business, commerce, and government in the Valley, and
20 according to the 2000 census it is one of the fastest growing
21 Metropolitan Statistical Areas in the country; in 2001, McAllen was
22 voted the 25th best place to do business in the U.S. by *Forbes*
23 *Magazine*, and it was named number one in mid-size cities for growth
24 and development in the South by *Southern Business Magazine*; and

1 WHEREAS, The unique landscape of the Rio Grande Valley
2 provides promising soil for farming and produces a hospitable
3 environment for cultivating citrus fruits, cotton, sugar cane, and
4 many other crops and vegetables; a variety of ecosystems also
5 nurtures many unusual flora and fauna specific to this region of the
6 country; and

7 WHEREAS, A center for cultural activities, McAllen is home to
8 the International Museum of Art and Science, which serves as a
9 showcase for traveling exhibitions, loaned works from the
10 Smithsonian Institution, and an extensive collection of Latin
11 American folk art; tourists and residents alike enjoy festive
12 annual events, including the Candlelight Posada, the Fourth of July
13 Fajita Cookoff, the Texas Citrus Fiesta, Springfest, Borderfest,
14 and the Texas Square Dance Jamboree; and

15 WHEREAS, The citizens of McAllen are justifiably proud of
16 their city, which has played a significant role in the annals of
17 Texas history, and it is a pleasure to pay tribute to them on this
18 special day; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
20 Legislature hereby recognize March 30, 2005, as McAllen Day at the
21 State Capitol and extend to all those McAllen residents who are
22 present on this day sincere best wishes for a memorable visit to
23 Austin.

Gonzales
Pena

H.R. No. 914

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 914 was adopted by the House on March 30, 2005, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House