

By: Gonzales

H.R. No. 914

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.