

By: Gonzales

H.R. No. 1741

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Michael A. Allen has long played an instrumental
2 role in the economic development of McAllen and the Rio Grande
3 Valley; and

4 WHEREAS, President and chief executive officer of the McAllen
5 Economic Development Corporation since its inception in 1988, this
6 esteemed Texan has led MEDC to repeated success in its mission to
7 attract new industry, upgrade local infrastructure, and facilitate
8 trade and commerce; and

9 WHEREAS, With Mr. Allen at the helm for the past 17 years,
10 MEDC has recruited to the U.S. side of the border more than 215
11 companies, employing over 18,000 persons; the corporation has also
12 brought more than 250 companies to Reynosa, Mexico, thereby adding
13 another 75,000 jobs to the area; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Allen and his staff have generously shared the
15 knowledge and expertise of MEDC with their Mexican counterparts; at
16 the invitation of Don Florencio Salazar, coordinator with Plan
17 Puebla-Panama, Mr. Allen consulted on the economic development of a
18 number of Mexican states and the city of Merida; during that trip,
19 he and other MEDC staff met with various state governors and
20 economic development teams and offered insights into how to attract
21 industry to each of their regions; and

22 WHEREAS, Under Mr. Allen's guidance, MEDC has also sought to
23 forge international links by fostering sister-city relationships
24 with more than 10 cities in Mexico, as well as with cities in Canada

1 and China; and

2 WHEREAS, Mike Allen's personal achievements include his
3 contribution as a cofounder of the South Texas Border Partnership,
4 a coalition of five cities in Hidalgo County, and as the founder and
5 chairman of the Texas Border Infrastructure Coalition, which has
6 brought job training funds to the Valley and secured \$1.1 billion in
7 highway funds for the region stretching from El Paso to
8 Brownsville; and

9 WHEREAS, In addition, he has campaigned for the Anzalduas
10 International Crossing, a project jointly supported by the Cities
11 of McAllen, Hidalgo, and Mission; he has also worked to unite
12 customs brokers, truckers, and Mexican officials in efforts to
13 expedite trucking, and he has coordinated those same groups,
14 together with civic leaders in Hidalgo County, in developing
15 support for the construction of Interstate 69; and

16 WHEREAS, Mike Allen can take tremendous pride, moreover, in
17 MEDC's involvement in the creation of the Regional Academic Health
18 Center, a Lower Rio Grande Valley extension of The University of
19 Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio; division campuses of
20 the RAHC have been established in McAllen, Brownsville, Edinburg,
21 and Harlingen; and

22 WHEREAS, Affiliated with numerous economic development
23 organizations, Mr. Allen has further served as a member of the
24 Governor's Task Force on Management and Relations, as a board
25 member of the Alliance for Security and Trade and of the Border
26 Trade Alliance, as a director of the Rio Grande Valley Council of
27 Governments, and as a trustee of South Texas College; the breadth of

1 his knowledge is reflected in his participation in congressional
2 hearings on matters ranging from transportation and international
3 trucking to health care and infrastructure development; and

4 WHEREAS, For nearly two decades, Mike Allen has rendered
5 extraordinary service to the people of the Rio Grande Valley as he
6 has sought to address the development needs of one of the fastest
7 growing metropolitan areas in the United States, and for his
8 tireless dedication and remarkable vision he is indeed deserving of
9 warmest commendation; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
11 Legislature hereby honor Michael A. Allen for his immeasurable
12 contributions to expanding economic opportunity on both sides of
13 the Rio Grande and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued
14 success in all his endeavors; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for Mr. Allen as an expression of high regard by the Texas
17 House of Representatives.