

By: Gonzales

H.R. No. 226

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 February 6, 2007, to celebrate their  
3 community's contributions to the vitality of the Lone Star State;  
4 and

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

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

19           WHEREAS, In the last three decades, McAllen has become a  
20 center for business, commerce, and government in the Valley, and  
21 according to the 2000 census, it is one of the fastest-growing  
22 metropolitan statistical areas in the country; it has been voted as  
23 one of the best places to do business in the United States by *Forbes*  
24 magazine, and it was named number one in midsize cities for growth

1 and development in the South by *Southern Business Magazine*; and

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

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

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

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
21 Legislature hereby recognize February 6, 2007, as McAllen Day at  
22 the State Capitol and extend to all those McAllen residents who are  
23 present on this day sincere best wishes for a memorable visit to  
24 Austin.