

By: Flores

H.R. No. 386

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Citizens of Hidalgo County are gathering at the  
2 State Capitol to celebrate Hidalgo County Day on February 14, 2007;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, Inhabited by humans for 11,000 years, this region of  
5 the Rio Grande delta has been the home of the Coahuilteicans, the  
6 Karankawa, the Lipan Apaches, and the Comanche; and

7           WHEREAS, The first Spanish visitors arrived in the 17th  
8 century; in 1749 Jose de Escandon established four towns along the  
9 Rio Grande; 19 land grants were issued in the area by the  
10 governments of Spain and Mexico, leading to the creation of many  
11 successful cattle and sheep ranches; and

12           WHEREAS, After the end of the Mexican-American War in 1848,  
13 the region became part of the United States and a popular way  
14 station for prospectors traveling to the California Gold Rush;  
15 established in 1852, Hidalgo County was named for Miguel Hidalgo y  
16 Costilla, an advocate for Mexican independence; in the early 20th  
17 century, the town of Chapin was renamed Edinburg and made county  
18 seat; and

19           WHEREAS, The arrival of the railway in 1904 helped introduce  
20 large-scale farming in the county, particularly of citrus, cotton,  
21 corn, and sugarcane; with the establishment in 1924 of a regional  
22 Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in Weslaco, the towns along  
23 Highway 83 began to thrive and came to be described as "the longest  
24 main street in the world"; and

1           WHEREAS, While farming and ranching remain important to the  
2 county, the discovery of oil in 1934 increased the region's  
3 prosperity; today the county is a major port of entry into the  
4 United States, and the shipment of goods from Mexico is an essential  
5 part of the county's economy; and

6           WHEREAS, The educational needs of the county's citizens are  
7 well served by The University of Texas-Pan American in Edinburg and  
8 South Texas College in McAllen; the county also boasts the Museum  
9 for South Texas History, which explores the history and blended  
10 cultural heritage of South Texas, and the International Museum of  
11 Art and Science, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution; the  
12 Valley Symphony Orchestra and Chorale performs a six-concert  
13 subscription season every year, as well as eight educational  
14 concerts; and

15           WHEREAS, Residents and visitors alike enjoy the many  
16 attractions of Hidalgo County; the Texas Citrus Fiesta in Mission  
17 every winter features a carnival and the Parade of Oranges; in  
18 Weslaco the Rio Grande Valley Onion Festival in April includes food  
19 booths, entertainment, and onion recipe contests; the Rio Grande  
20 Valley Livestock Show in Mercedes draws an average attendance of  
21 160,000 every March; with nearly 400 species of birds, the Santa Ana  
22 National Wildlife Refuge near Alamo is an international destination  
23 for birders; and

24           WHEREAS, Led by County Judge J. D. Salinas and County  
25 Commissioners Sylvia S. Handy, Hector "Tito" Palacios, Joe M.  
26 Flores, and Oscar L. Garza, Jr., the residents of this dynamic  
27 region of the Lone Star State have much to be proud of, as they

1 celebrate the past and work to build a bright and prosperous future;  
2 now, therefore, be it

3         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
4 Legislature hereby recognize February 14, 2007, as Hidalgo County  
5 Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation  
6 sincere best wishes for an informative and enjoyable visit to  
7 Austin.