H.R. No. 442

RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The 31st Annual Hidalgo BorderFest will be held 2 March 1-4, 2007, and is expected to attract more than 65,000 3 visitors and residents during its four days of festivities; and

WHEREAS, Sponsored by the BorderFest Association, City of Hidalgo, and Hidalgo Chamber of Commerce, BorderFest is the largest and oldest heritage and music festival in South Texas, and the event has long been dedicated to promoting cultural enrichment, arts education, and heritage preservation in South Texas; and

9 WHEREAS, BorderFest celebrates the diverse cultures that 10 make the Rio Grande Valley unique, and it is an opportunity to 11 share, preserve, and showcase the area's heritage through 12 education, music, dance, cultural activities, and family fun; and

WHEREAS, Over the last three decades, BorderFest has grown to be a major event in Texas; guided by an enlightened leadership, encouraged by a sympathetic city government, and staffed by a dedicated and enthusiastic corps of volunteers, BorderFest is scheduled annually for the first full weekend in March, and the celebration always pays tribute to a specific nation or historical event; and

20 WHEREAS, This year's festival offers "A Salute to Ireland" as 21 a way to recognize the customs, color, and charm of the Emerald 22 Isle; it also offers us an opportunity to celebrate Texans and 23 Mexicans of Irish descent and experience their rich culture and 24 heritage; and

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WHEREAS, BorderFest offers 16 stages and features continuous 1 2 live entertainment, educational opportunities, traditional customs, international friendship embrace at the International 3 4 Bridge between Mexico and the United States, arts, crafts, cuisines, parades, a carnival, the International Square Dance and 5 6 Clogging jubilee, and other family activities that showcase the 7 ethnic heritage, music, and culture of the people of the Rio Grande 8 Valley; and

9 WHEREAS, Each year, BorderFest donates tens of thousands of 10 dollars in scholarships to area youth; it has also helped local 11 charities and community organizations raise money through their 12 participation in the festival; and

WHEREAS, BorderFest plays an invaluable role in the vitality of Hidalgo and South Texas and continues to be one of the Lone Star State's most entertaining and culturally enriching events; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas 18 Legislature hereby commend all associated with the 31st Annual 19 Hidalgo BorderFest for their civic and cultural contributions to 20 their community and extend to them best wishes for a successful 21 celebration.

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 442 was adopted by the House on February 20, 2007, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House