

By: Martinez

H.R. No. 1279

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of House District 39 are gathering
2 in Austin on March 27, 2007, to celebrate House District 39 Day at
3 the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Including the cities of Alamo, Donna, Mercedes,
5 Progreso, Progreso Lakes, San Juan, and Weslaco, this region of the
6 lower Rio Grande Valley was settled by cattle ranchers and sheep
7 ranchers under grants from the Spanish and Mexican governments; in
8 recent years it has been a center for farming and agribusiness, with
9 such important crops as cotton, sugarcane, citrus fruit, grain, and
10 vegetables; and

11 WHEREAS, Alamo is in the midst of an ambitious and successful
12 revitalization plan; the city has a new city hall, public library,
13 and public works center and is making significant improvements in
14 city streets, parks, and utility infrastructure; there is a new
15 Sports Complex and Community Park, and a new fire station, police
16 substation, and 500,000-gallon water tower are planned; and

17 WHEREAS, Widely known as "the City with a Heart in the Heart
18 of the Rio Grande Valley," the city of Donna looks forward to the
19 long-awaited Donna International Bridge to Mexico; when completed,
20 the eight-lane toll bridge will bring in \$3 million a year in tolls,
21 as well as bolstering the city's economy with the traffic of
22 shoppers and tourists going to and from Mexico; and

23 WHEREAS, Known as the Boot Capital of Texas, Mercedes has
24 long been a major center for the processing and marketing of

1 livestock, cotton, and vegetables; the annual Rio Grande Valley
2 Livestock Show and Rodeo draws 150,000 people, with over 3,000
3 exhibitors; in recent years it has raised \$14,000 in scholarship
4 money for 4-H and FFA students; and

5 WHEREAS, With their long history as centers for the sugarcane
6 business, Progreso and Progreso Lakes are also a gateway to the Rio
7 Grande Valley thanks to the new Progreso/Nuevo Progreso
8 International Bridge, completed in 2003; approximately 1.25
9 million pedestrians cross the bridge each year, and a million cars
10 make the southbound crossing; and

11 WHEREAS, Celebrating the 90th anniversary of its
12 incorporation, San Juan has become one of the fastest-growing
13 cities in the Rio Grande Valley; it is the home of the Virgen de San
14 Juan del Valle Shrine, which draws between 20 and 30 thousand
15 visitors a week from all over the nation and Mexico, as well as a
16 flagpole paying tribute to the men and women who have served in the
17 nation's armed forces; and

18 WHEREAS, The city of Weslaco has become a favorite
19 destination for tourists, golfers, retirees, and birders; it is
20 also home to two important Texas A&M research stations; the annual
21 Onion Fest celebrates the development of the famous Texas 1015
22 Onion in Weslaco and draws 12,000 visitors to the city; and

23 WHEREAS, The public schools of District 39 provide
24 educational opportunities to the region's diverse population;
25 Donna ISD may take pride in its 1,500 elementary students who
26 participated in Read Across America, in the recent impressive
27 improvement in reading scores of third and fifth graders, and in the

1 notable performance of its Bilingual/ESL students on state
2 assessment tests, which have made it a model school district; and

3 WHEREAS, Home of the Mercedes Tigers, Mercedes ISD is proud
4 of its many accomplished graduates, including Congressman Ruben
5 Hinojosa, Hidalgo County Judge J. D. Salinas, District Clerk Laura
6 Hinojosa, Tejano singer Elida Reyna, musicians Ruben Vela and
7 Gilberto Perez, authors Eddie Howell and Michael Salinas,
8 songwriter Amanda McBroom, Weslaco ISD Superintendent Ricardo
9 Rivera, and physician Dr. Eduardo Caballero; and

10 WHEREAS, The Progreso Early College High School Academy
11 offers an opportunity for high school students to get an early start
12 on college by earning 60 college credit hours or an associate
13 degree; beginning in the fall of 2007 and provided free of charge,
14 this innovative program has already received 300 applications; and

15 WHEREAS, Weslaco ISD has been a TEA "Recognized" school
16 district for 10 years, and it has also been recognized by the
17 National Center for Educational Accountability for exhibiting
18 outstanding performance by comparison with other schools in Texas;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Eight schools in the Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD have
21 been featured in *Texas Monthly* magazine as being among the best
22 public schools in Texas by exhibiting outstanding performance
23 across several grades and years on the TAKS test; another three
24 campuses in the district have been recognized as exemplary
25 campuses; and

26 WHEREAS, The residents of this dynamic and rapidly growing
27 region of the Lone Star State are justifiably proud of their hard

1 work, civic commitment, and innovative spirit; a fine place to live
2 and work, it celebrates its rich past while looking forward to an
3 exciting future; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
5 Legislature hereby recognize March 27, 2007, as House District 39
6 Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best
7 wishes for an informative and enjoyable stay in Austin.