

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 184

WHEREAS, Residents of the city of McAllen are gathering at the State Capitol on February 6, 2007, to celebrate their community's contributions to the vitality of the Lone Star State; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hinojosa, Lucio

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 6, 2007.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate