

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 294

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

WHEREAS, Sponsored by the BorderFest Association, the City of Hidalgo, and the 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

WHEREAS, BorderFest celebrates the diverse cultures that make the Rio Grande Valley unique, and it is an opportunity to share, preserve, and showcase the area's heritage through 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, and has been 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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby commend all associated with the 31st Annual Hidalgo BorderFest for their civic and cultural contributions to their community and extend to them best wishes for a successful celebration; and, be it further

S.R. No. 294

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared as a memento of this special occasion.

Hinojosa

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 20, 2007.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate