

By: Oliveira

H.R. No. 216

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Residents of Brownsville are gathering in Austin to  
2 celebrate Brownsville Day at the State Capitol on February 4, 2009;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, Located across the Rio Grande from Matamoros,  
5 Mexico, the site of Brownsville originally formed part of the  
6 Espiritu Santo land grant, a tract of 59 leagues that was awarded to  
7 Salvador de la Garza in 1781; by the time Texas declared its  
8 independence from Mexico in 1836, a small community had developed  
9 in the vicinity of the future town; a decade later, U.S. troops  
10 under General Zachary Taylor arrived in the area and began  
11 constructing a defensive post that soon became known as Fort Brown,  
12 in honor of Major Jacob Brown, who had died during a Mexican assault  
13 on the post; when the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the  
14 Mexican-American War in 1848, the Rio Grande became the recognized  
15 southern boundary of Texas, and that same year Charles Stillman  
16 platted the town of Brownsville and created the Brownsville Town  
17 Company to promote it; and

18           WHEREAS, During the Civil War, Brownsville became the only  
19 port available to the Confederacy for shipping cotton to Europe in  
20 exchange for war provisions; Brownsville was also the site of the  
21 last Civil War battle, an encounter that occurred at Palmito Ranch;  
22 and

23           WHEREAS, Designated the Cameron County seat in 1849,  
24 Brownsville is now the largest city in the lower Rio Grande Valley

1 and the southernmost city in Texas; with international sea and land  
2 ports, Brownsville thrives on a mixed economy encompassing trade  
3 and marine services, together with electronics, food processing,  
4 and the warehouse distribution industry; and

5       WHEREAS, Tourism also plays a major role in the local  
6 economy, owing to an abundance of historical and natural  
7 attractions; featuring more than three miles of wildlife trails,  
8 the Sabal Palm Audubon Center in Brownsville is a sanctuary for one  
9 of the most threatened ecosystems in South Texas and northern  
10 Mexico, and it harbors native plants and animals that cannot be  
11 found elsewhere in the United States; the city is also home to the  
12 Gladys Porter Zoo, where visitors can observe such endangered  
13 species as the white rhinoceros and the lowland gorilla; moreover,  
14 the convergence of two major flyways is located above the city, and  
15 most northern species pass through Brownsville as they migrate  
16 south for the winter, making the area a bird-watcher's paradise;  
17 and

18       WHEREAS, The city of Brownsville is fortunate to have many  
19 public-spirited citizens who are committed to ensuring that their  
20 community and its people are prepared to meet the challenges of the  
21 21st century, and the Brownsville Interagency Group is a coalition  
22 of various organizations that are dedicated to fulfilling that  
23 important objective; it is indeed a pleasure to welcome members of  
24 this group to the State Capitol today and to recognize the entities  
25 that they represent: the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce,  
26 Brownsville Community Improvements Corporation, Brownsville  
27 Convention and Visitors Bureau, Brownsville Economic Development

1 Council, Brownsville Independent School District, Brownsville  
2 Navigation District, Brownsville Public Utilities Board,  
3 Brownsville--South Padre Island International Airport, City of  
4 Brownsville, Greater Brownsville Incentives Corporation, Port of  
5 Brownsville, University of Texas at Brownsville--Southmost  
6 College, and Brownsville Urban System, as well as Cameron County  
7 and Workforce Solutions--Cameron; and

8 WHEREAS, Citizens of this vibrant South Texas community  
9 celebrate their rich history even as they work to build a bright  
10 future, and they may reflect with great pride on their city's  
11 notable contributions to the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
13 Legislature hereby recognize February 4, 2009, as Brownsville Day  
14 at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere  
15 best wishes for an enjoyable stay in Austin.