

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Residents of the city of McAllen are gathering at  
2 the State Capitol on February 10, 2009, to celebrate their  
3 community's contributions to the vitality of the Lone Star State;  
4 and

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

12           WHEREAS, In 1904, Mr. McAllen and other early settlers  
13 established a town site called West McAllen, where the St. Louis,  
14 Brownsville & Mexico Railroad arrived a year later; additional  
15 developers founded East McAllen in 1907, and the two towns  
16 eventually merged and welcomed several businesses, churches, and  
17 residences and a newspaper; by 1920, the city's population exceeded  
18 5,000 and continued to grow steadily; and

19           WHEREAS, In the last three decades, McAllen has become a  
20 center for business, commerce, and government in the Valley; ranked  
21 number one in the nation in job growth in 2008, McAllen has the  
22 strongest housing market in the country, according to *Forbes*  
23 magazine, and it was named the number-one fastest-growing real  
24 estate market in the country by CNNMoney.com; in addition, the city

1 is home to South Texas College, one of the fastest-growing  
2 community colleges in the nation; and

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

9 WHEREAS, A center for cultural activities, McAllen is home to  
10 the International Museum of Art and Science, which serves as a  
11 showcase for traveling exhibitors, loaned works from the  
12 Smithsonian Institution, and an extensive collection of Latin  
13 American folk art; tourists and residents alike enjoy festive  
14 annual events, including the Candlelight Posada, the Fourth of July  
15 Celebration and Parade, Palmfest Fajita Cook-off, International  
16 Friendship Run, and McAllen New Year's Eve Celebration; and

17 WHEREAS, Led by Mayor Richard Cortez, District 1 Council  
18 Member Scott Crane, District 2 Council Member Marcus Barrera,  
19 District 3 Council Member Hilda Salinas, District 4 Council Member  
20 Aida Ramirez, District 5 Council Member John Ingram, and District 6  
21 Council Member James "Jim" Darling, the citizens of McAllen are  
22 justifiably proud of their city, which has played a significant  
23 role in the annals of Texas history, and it is a pleasure to pay  
24 tribute to them on this special day; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
26 Legislature hereby recognize February 10, 2009, as McAllen Day at  
27 the State Capitol and extend to all those McAllen residents who are

H.R. No. 229

1 present on this day sincere best wishes for a memorable visit to  
2 Austin.

Gonzales  
Pena  
Flores

Straus	Gattis	Menendez
Allen	Geren	Merritt
Alonzo	Giddings	Miklos
Alvarado	Gonzales	Miller of Comal
Anchia	Gonzalez Toureilles	Miller of Erath
Anderson	Guillen	Moody
Aycock	Gutierrez	Morrison
Berman	Hamilton	Naishtat
Bohac	Hancock	Oliveira
Bolton	Hardcastle	Olivo
Bonnen	Harless	Orr
Branch	Harper-Brown	Ortiz, Jr.
Brown of Kaufman	Hartnett	Otto
Brown of Brazos	Heflin	Parker
Burnam	Hernandez	Patrick
Button	Herrero	Paxton
Callegari	Hilderbran	Pena
Castro	Hochberg	Phillips
Chavez	Hodge	Pickett
Chisum	Homer	Pierson
Christian	Hopson	Pitts
Cohen	Howard of Fort Bend	Quintanilla
Coleman	Howard of Travis	Raymond
Cook	Hughes	Riddle
Corte	Hunter	Rios Ybarra
Crabb	Isett	Ritter
Craddick	Jackson	Rodriguez
Creighton	Jones	Rose
Crownover	Keffer	Sheffield
Darby	Kent	Shelton
Davis of Harris	King of Parker	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Dallas	King of Taylor	Smith of Harris
Deshotel	King of Zavala	Smithee
Driver	Kleinschmidt	Solomons
Dukes	Kolkhorst	Strama
Dunnam	Kuempel	Swinford
Dutton	Laubenberg	Taylor
Edwards	Legler	Thibaut
Eiland	Leibowitz	Thompson
Eissler	Lewis	Truitt
Elkins	Lucio III	Turner of Tarrant
England	Madden	Turner of Harris
Farabee	Maldonado	Vaught
Farias	Mallory Caraway	Veasey
Farrar	Marquez	Villarreal
Fletcher	Martinez	Vo
Flores	Martinez Fischer	Walle
Flynn	McCall	Weber
Frost	McClendon	Woolley
Gallego	McReynolds	Zerwas

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 229 was adopted by the House on  
February 10, 2009, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House