

By: Gonzales

H.R. No. 229

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

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