

By: Pena

H.R. No. 277

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Members of the Texas House of Representatives are  
2 pleased to join with a delegation of citizens from Edinburg in  
3 celebrating Edinburg Day at the State Capitol on February 10, 2009;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, Established in the early 20th century and originally  
6 known as Chapin, Edinburg became the seat of Hidalgo County in 1908;  
7 though ranching initially formed the basis of the town's economy,  
8 the arrival of the railroad in 1909 and irrigation in 1915 soon led  
9 to an emphasis on the farming of cotton, grain, and citrus; in short  
10 order, the town became a thriving center for agricultural marketing  
11 and processing; and

12           WHEREAS, Long considered the gateway to the lower Rio Grande  
13 Valley, Edinburg is now a dynamic community of approximately 70,000  
14 people; in October 2008, throngs of residents commemorated the  
15 town's centennial with a spirited, weeklong celebration, which  
16 included the opening of the new city hall; and

17           WHEREAS, Edinburg offers a wide range of amenities that mark  
18 it as a forward-looking city; the educational needs of area  
19 students are capably met by the Edinburg Consolidated Independent  
20 School District, which is celebrating the 90th anniversary of its  
21 founding in 2009; encompassing 945 square miles, the district  
22 includes 27 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, 3 high schools,  
23 and an alternative campus; and

24           WHEREAS, Founded in 1927 as Edinburg Junior College, The

1 University of Texas--Pan American remains one of the Valley's  
2 premier institutions of higher learning; UTPA recently opened its  
3 Wellness and Recreation Sports Complex, and the school is moving  
4 forward with plans for the construction of a Fine Arts Center; the  
5 center is expected to bring in significant revenue to the  
6 university and the surrounding area and also to help draw  
7 corporations and industry to South Texas; and

8         WHEREAS, Standing adjacent to UTPA is the Medical Research  
9 Division of the Regional Academic Health Center, a part of The  
10 University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio; the  
11 Medical Research Division was dedicated in 2006 and will develop  
12 treatments for illnesses prevalent along the Texas-Mexico border;  
13 and

14         WHEREAS, Health care resources include the Edinburg  
15 Children's Hospital, the Doctors Hospital at Renaissance, and three  
16 facilities that all opened in 2007--the Renaissance Behavioral  
17 Center, the Cancer Center at Renaissance, and the Women's Hospital  
18 at Renaissance; and

19         WHEREAS, The vibrant history and culture of the region are  
20 highlighted by the Museum of South Texas History, where new  
21 exhibits include 64 maps of Texas dating from 1548 to 2006, as well  
22 as a centennial exhibit that explores the history of education,  
23 government, civic life, and commerce in the city over the past 10  
24 decades; as part of its 2003 expansion, the museum installed the  
25 first two sections of a permanent exhibit titled "Rio Grande  
26 Legacy," which presents the prehistory and history of the region  
27 with bilingual text and state-of-the-art displays; currently under

1 development next to the museum is Will Looney Legacy Park, where  
2 exhibits will show how earlier inhabitants of South Texas adapted  
3 to the environment; and

4 WHEREAS, In June 2008, the local Boys and Girls Club, which  
5 serves almost 20,000 children in Edinburg and nearby communities,  
6 broke ground on a new, eco-friendly clubhouse; encompassing nearly  
7 33,000 square feet, the building will sit on a 20-acre site that  
8 will feature a track, soccer field, walking trail, and tennis and  
9 basketball courts; and

10 WHEREAS, Other Edinburg attractions include the 40-acre  
11 wetlands of the World Birding Center, the Texas Cook 'Em cook-off,  
12 and the All-America City 10K Run/Walk, which draws runners from  
13 throughout Texas and Mexico; and

14 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Mayor Joe Ochoa and city  
15 council members Alma Garza, Noe Garza, Agustin Garcia, and Gene  
16 Espinoza, Edinburg continues on the trajectory of steady growth and  
17 improvement that has made it a three-time winner of the All-America  
18 City award, given by the National Civic League; and

19 WHEREAS, Proud of their rich history, the people of Edinburg  
20 are determined to preserve the best of the city's past while  
21 building a future full of hope and opportunity; now, therefore, be  
22 it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
24 Legislature hereby recognize February 10, 2009, as Edinburg Day at  
25 the State Capitol and extend a warm welcome to the delegation from  
26 Edinburg.