

By: Martinez

H.R. No. 689

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of the Mid-Valley region of Texas
2 are gathering in Austin on March 11, 2009, to celebrate Mid-Valley
3 Day at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Located in the Rio Grande Valley, the Mid-Valley
5 region includes the towns of Alamo, Donna, Mercedes, Progreso,
6 Progreso Lakes, San Juan, and Weslaco; this area is a center for
7 agribusiness, with farmers producing sugarcane, grains, and citrus
8 fruit such as grapefruits and oranges; and

9 WHEREAS, The city of Alamo has been undertaking a
10 far-reaching revitalization plan that has resulted in the
11 construction of a new city hall, public library, and public works
12 center; in addition, the town is making significant improvements to
13 its infrastructure and fire department and police facilities; and

14 WHEREAS, Upholding the motto "the City with a Heart in the
15 Heart of the Rio Grande Valley," Donna looks forward to the
16 completion of the Donna International Bridge to Mexico; the
17 eight-lane bridge is expected to bolster the city's economy because
18 of the increased number of shoppers and tourists to and from Mexico;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Mercedes has long been a major center for the
21 processing and marketing of livestock, cotton, and vegetables, and
22 it is also known for its boot makers and the shopping opportunities
23 at the Rio Grande Valley Premium Outlets; the annual Rio Grande
24 Valley Livestock Show and Rodeo draws more than 200,000 people to

1 town each year, and the event provides valuable scholarship funds
2 for 4-H and FFA students; and

3 WHEREAS, In addition to being centers for the sugarcane
4 business, Progreso and Progreso Lakes have been serving as gateways
5 to the Rio Grande Valley since the opening of the Progreso/Nuevo
6 Progreso International Bridge in 2003; and

7 WHEREAS, Fast-growing San Juan is the home of the Virgen de
8 San Juan del Valle Shrine, which attracts multitudes of pilgrims
9 from throughout the United States and Mexico, and the town has also
10 installed a landmark flagpole that pays tribute to the men and women
11 who have served in the nation's armed forces; and

12 WHEREAS, The city of Weslaco has become a favorite
13 destination for tourists, golfers, retirees, and birders and is the
14 location of two important Texas A&M University research stations;
15 the annual Onion Fest celebrates the development of the famous
16 Texas 1015 onion in Weslaco, and this popular event brings many
17 visitors to the city; and

18 WHEREAS, Throughout the Mid-Valley region, great emphasis is
19 placed on the value of education, and one particularly striking
20 example of the Mid-Valley's educational achievements came in
21 December 2008, when *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the Science
22 Academy of South Texas in Mercedes among the nation's top 100 high
23 schools; and

24 WHEREAS, The residents of this dynamic region of the Lone
25 Star State are justifiably proud of their hard work, civic
26 commitment, and innovative spirit, and their efforts have created a
27 group of notable Texas communities that are well prepared to meet

1 the challenges and opportunities of the future; now, therefore, be
2 it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
4 Legislature hereby recognize March 11, 2009, as Mid-Valley Day at
5 the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best wishes
6 for an informative and enjoyable stay in Austin.