

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, During his many decades as an elected official and
2 community business leader in McAllen, the Honorable Othal E.
3 Brand, Sr., has had a lasting . . . and lasting . . . and lasting
4 influence on the city of McAllen; and

5 WHEREAS, The mayor of McAllen from 1977 until 1997, this
6 tireless public servant helped guide the city through two eventful
7 decades that witnessed great economic and civic progress in South
8 Texas; while Mayor Brand may not have succeeded in his valiant
9 campaign to rid the city of grackles, there is no denying that his
10 efforts have made an indelible mark on his adopted hometown; and

11 WHEREAS, Othal Brand was born on August 12, 1919, in Grayson,
12 Georgia, and began his love affair with vegetables soon after his
13 mother fed him his first spoonful of mushy peas; a born
14 entrepreneur, he entered the business world at a young age, and he
15 and his brother Bill established Brand Brothers Produce in Atlanta,
16 the city where he grew up; and

17 WHEREAS, Opting to put his budding fruit and vegetable empire
18 on hold during World War II, he enlisted in the United States Marine
19 Corps and served his nation in the South Pacific; he returned
20 stateside at war's end, and he and his wife, Kathryn Louise, were
21 joined in matrimony in 1945; whether it was due to Mrs. Brand's good
22 sense or some other factor, the couple moved in the mid-1950s to
23 McAllen, a town Mr. Brand had first visited in the late 1930s; and

24 WHEREAS, Warm weather makes most people slow down a step or

1 two, but Othal Brand is not most people; once settled beneath the
2 South Texas sun, he went to work, teaming with Jack Griffin to found
3 Griffin & Brand of McAllen; the company grew into one of the
4 nation's largest vegetable producers, processors, and shippers,
5 and Mr. Brand became a titan of agriculture, eventually earning a
6 place in the Texas Heritage Hall of Honor for his contributions to
7 farming and ranching; in time, he sought elective office, serving
8 as a member of the school board and as a city commissioner in
9 addition to his 20 years as McAllen's mayor; and

10 WHEREAS, Juggling numerous business and governmental
11 responsibilities was apparently not enough of a challenge for Mayor
12 Brand, so he found other jobs that needed doing; he played a key
13 role in establishing organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs
14 of McAllen and the McAllen Economic Development Corporation, and he
15 has been a member of numerous boards and committees; all in all,
16 this mover and shaker has proven himself capable of excelling in
17 darn near anything he sets his mind to, and McAllen has become a
18 better place as a result; and

19 WHEREAS, Through the years, Mayor Brand has also cultivated a
20 fine family; he and his wife have four children and also relish the
21 time they spend with their numerous grandchildren and
22 great-grandchildren; and

23 WHEREAS, In his many decades as a community leader, Othal
24 Brand has time and again demonstrated an unwavering determination
25 to follow his convictions and to bring others along for the ride,
26 and he has become a legendary figure whose achievements will
27 continue to resonate in South Texas for decades to come; now,

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
3 Legislature hereby commend the Honorable Othal E. Brand, Sr., for
4 his dedicated service to the city of McAllen and extend to him
5 sincere best wishes for continued success and happiness; and, be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
8 prepared for Mr. Brand as an expression of high regard by the Texas
9 House of Representatives.

Gonzales

H.R. No. 983

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 983 was adopted by the House on April 2, 2009, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House