

By: Gonzales

H.R. No. 983

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.