

By: Gonzales

H.R. No. 2083

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Larry Pressler is retiring as director of Parks &  
2 Recreation for McAllen after more than three decades of  
3 distinguished service; and

4           WHEREAS, A graduate of Texas A&M University, Mr. Pressler  
5 earned his bachelor's degree in recreation and park administration  
6 and joined the McAllen parks department in 1973, becoming director  
7 four years later; at the time, there were 7 parks and 15 employees;  
8 through Mr. Pressler's vision and skillful management, the  
9 department has experienced phenomenal growth and today encompasses  
10 50 parks, as well as an extensive recreation program that provides  
11 after-school activities for more than 1,000 children every day and  
12 serves 6,000 students daily during the summer; and

13           WHEREAS, Mr. Pressler had the foresight in the 1980s to plant  
14 the now-iconic palm trees that line the Business 83 highway; he was  
15 instrumental in the city's acquisition of Quinta Mazatlan, a  
16 historic estate that provides opportunities for birding in the  
17 urban environment, and his efforts in restoring wildlife habitat  
18 won him special recognition from the Rio Grande Valley Birding  
19 Festival; in partnership with the Mexican city of Reynosa, he  
20 established the International Friendship Run, and he created the  
21 Golden Age Olympics for participants aged 50 and older, which helps  
22 promote winter tourism; the A&M Department of Recreation, Park and  
23 Tourism Sciences recognized these accomplishments by presenting  
24 him with the Leslie M. Reid Outstanding Alumnus Award in 1997; and

1           WHEREAS, Demonstrating exceptional resolve and perseverance  
2 throughout his tenure, Mr. Pressler undertook a number of major  
3 projects that were decades in the making; through his expertise in  
4 obtaining grants and ability to maximize efficiencies, he  
5 ultimately succeeded in providing such amenities as the hike and  
6 bike trails along Second Street and Bicentennial Boulevard, the new  
7 amphitheater and sunken gardens at Bill Schupp Park, and the city's  
8 first dog park, scheduled to open in summer 2009; and

9           WHEREAS, Admired and respected by all who know him, Larry  
10 Pressler has immeasurably enhanced the quality of life in McAllen  
11 through his commitment to developing a first-class park system and  
12 top-notch recreational programs, and his noteworthy achievements  
13 will continue to benefit residents for years to come; now,  
14 therefore, be it

15           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
16 Legislature hereby congratulate Larry Pressler on his retirement  
17 and commend him for his outstanding contributions; and, be it  
18 further

19           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
20 prepared for Mr. Pressler as an expression of high regard by the  
21 Texas House of Representatives.