

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 143**

**WHEREAS**, Residents of the City of McAllen are gathering at the State Capitol on February 10, 2009, to celebrate their community's contributions to the vitality of the Lone Star State; and

**WHEREAS**, The development of present-day McAllen began in 1797 when Spanish settler Jose Manuel Gomez founded the Santa Anita Ranch in southern Hidalgo County; the ranch grew in size and, after passing through the hands of several heirs, it was inherited by his great-granddaughter, Salome Balli; Salome married John McAllen, and together they continued to add to the property and renamed it McAllen Ranch; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1904, Mr. McAllen and other early settlers established a town site called West McAllen, and a year later, the St. Louis, Brownsville, and Mexico Railroad arrived; other developers founded East McAllen in 1907, and the two towns eventually merged and became home to several businesses, churches, residences, and a newspaper; by 1920, the city's population exceeded 5,000 residents and was continuing to grow; and

**WHEREAS**, Over the last three decades, McAllen has grown into a center for business, commerce, and government in the Rio Grande Valley, and it is one of the fastest-growing metropolitan statistical areas in the country; in 2001, McAllen was ranked as one of the top 25 best places to do business in the United States by *Forbes Magazine* and it was named number one in mid-size cities for growth and development in the South by *Southern Business Magazine*; and

**WHEREAS**, The unique landscape of the Rio Grande Valley offers rich soil for farming and a hospitable environment for cultivating citrus fruits, cotton, sugarcane, and many other crops and vegetables; and

**WHEREAS**, A center of cultural attractions, McAllen is home to the International Museum of Art and Science, which serves as a showcase for traveling exhibitors, loaned works from the Smithsonian Institution, and an extensive collection of Latin American folk art; the city is also a regional banking, retail, and convention hub with La Plaza mall and the new \$75 million convention center; and

**WHEREAS**, Tourists and residents alike enjoy festive annual events, such as the Candlelight Posada, the Fourth of July festival, PalmFest, and the Texas Square Dance Jamboree; McAllen was named an All-America City in 1996, and in 2008, McAllen celebrated the first annual Drop the Ball New Year's Eve Bash, a free, community-wide event that promises to provide an exciting New Year's Eve option for residents throughout the Valley for years to come; and

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**WHEREAS**, The citizens of McAllen are justifiably proud of their city, which has played a significant role in the annals of Texas history, and it is a pleasure to pay tribute to them on this special day; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby recognize February 10, 2009, as McAllen Day at the State Capitol and extend to all McAllen residents who are present on this day sincere best wishes for a memorable visit to Austin.

Hinojosa, Lucio

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 10, 2009.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate

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Member, Texas Senate