

By: Gonzales of Hidalgo

H.R. No. 231

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of McAllen are gathering at the State
2 Capitol on February 1, 2011, to celebrate their community's
3 contributions to the vitality of the Lone Star State; and

4 WHEREAS, The development of present-day McAllen began in 1797
5 when Spanish settler Jose Manuel Gomez founded the Santa Anita
6 Ranch in what is now southern Hidalgo County; the ranch grew in size
7 and was eventually inherited by Mr. Gomez's great-granddaughter,
8 Salome Balli, who married John McAllen; together they continued to
9 add to the property and renamed it McAllen Ranch; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1904, the St. Louis, Brownsville, and Mexico
11 Railroad arrived, and that same year, Mr. McAllen and other early
12 settlers established the McAllen Townsite Company, along with a
13 community named for John McAllen; other developers founded East
14 McAllen in 1907, and the two towns eventually merged and became home
15 to several businesses, churches, residences, and a newspaper; by
16 1920, the city was home to some 6,000 residents; and

17 WHEREAS, Over the last four decades, McAllen has grown into a
18 center for business, commerce, and government in the Rio Grande
19 Valley, and it is part of one of the fastest-growing metropolitan
20 statistical areas in the country; in 2009, *Forbes* magazine ranked
21 McAllen as the top mid-sized city in the nation for population and
22 job growth; CNNMoney.com has listed McAllen as one of the best
23 places in the country to live and invest, and Moody's Analytics
24 ranked the city number one for job growth for 2008-2013; such

1 designations continue a trend of recognition for McAllen dating
2 back to at least 1996, when it was named an All-America City; and

3 WHEREAS, A vibrant cultural center, McAllen is home to the
4 International Museum of Art and Science, which serves as a showcase
5 for traveling exhibitions, loaned works from the Smithsonian
6 Institution, and an extensive collection of Latin American folk
7 art; the city's newly created Arts District holds regular art
8 walks, drawing thousands of art enthusiasts monthly; McAllen is
9 also a regional hub for banking, shopping, and conventions, thanks
10 to La Plaza Mall and the recently opened \$75 million convention
11 center; moreover, a 123,000-square-foot public library is
12 scheduled for completion in summer 2011; and

13 WHEREAS, Visitors and residents alike enjoy such festive
14 annual events as the Candlelight Posada, the Fourth of July
15 Celebration, and PalmFest, and in 2010, the city celebrated its
16 third annual New Year's Eve bash, a free, community-wide event; and

17 WHEREAS, During 2011, the citizens of McAllen are celebrating
18 the city's 100th anniversary as a municipality, and they may indeed
19 take great pride in their city, which has played a significant role
20 in the annals of Texas history; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
22 Legislature hereby recognize February 1, 2011, as McAllen Day at
23 the State Capitol and extend to all McAllen residents who are
24 present on this day sincere best wishes for a memorable visit to
25 Austin.