

By: Lucio III

H.R. No. 285

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Harlingen are gathering in Austin on
2 February 9, 2011, to celebrate Harlingen Day at the State Capitol;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, From the time in 1904 when Lon C. Hill chose a site
5 alongside the St. Louis, Brownsville, and Mexico Railway as the
6 location for a new town, Harlingen was destined to become a
7 crossroads of commerce; the first train passed through the rugged
8 settlement that railroad workers called "Rattlesnake Junction" on
9 July 4, 1904; tales of Texas Rangers and customs patrol agents
10 taking target practice next to the rail depot soon gave Harlingen
11 its next nickname of "Six-shooter Junction"; and

12 WHEREAS, Between the 1910s and 1930s, trains brought
13 thousands of Midwestern farmers to Harlingen to set up operations
14 in the fertile Magic Valley, where they found they could grow at
15 least two crops a year, and during World War II, the city was home to
16 Harlingen Army Airfield, a facility that grew and evolved into
17 Harlingen Air Force Base; and

18 WHEREAS, The base eventually became Valley International
19 Airport, the largest airport in the Rio Grande Valley, which,
20 together with the city's bridge to Mexico and the port that connects
21 it to the Intracoastal Waterway, serves to further underscore the
22 community's importance as a center for trade; and

23 WHEREAS, The area's semitropical climate, natural resources,
24 and friendly people make it a destination for travelers, including

1 "winter" Texans and bird-watchers and other outdoor enthusiasts;
2 the community's list of attractions has expanded to include the Iwo
3 Jima Memorial, the mural and heritage trails in the historic
4 downtown district, and numerous sports fields and parks; and

5 WHEREAS, Harlingen has developed into a regional health care
6 hub, with medical facilities that include Valley Baptist Health
7 System, Harlingen Medical Center, and Su Clinica Familiar;
8 moreover, the city has recently become the headquarters of the VA
9 Texas Valley Coastal Bend Health Care Network, which contains a
10 160,000-square-foot ambulatory and surgical facility; and

11 WHEREAS, Area residents have long understood the importance
12 of education, and the community is home to Texas State Technical
13 College, the Marine Military Academy, and the Regional Academic
14 Health Center of The University of Texas Health Science Center at
15 San Antonio; and

16 WHEREAS, This thriving city of 70,000 people is led by mayor
17 Chris Boswell in conjunction with city commissioners Gustavo C.
18 Ruiz, Robert A. Leftwich, Kori Marra, Jerry Prepejchal, and Joey
19 Trevino; and

20 WHEREAS, A dynamic community that draws on a rich history as
21 it prepares for an exciting future, Harlingen has established
22 itself as an outstanding place to live and work, and its citizens
23 may indeed take great pride in the area's ongoing achievements;
24 now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
26 Legislature hereby recognize February 9, 2011, as Harlingen Day at
27 the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere

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1 best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable visit.