

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of the Mid-Valley region of Texas
2 are gathering in Austin on March 9, 2011, to celebrate Mid-Valley
3 Day at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Located in eastern Hidalgo County in the Rio Grande
5 Valley, the Mid-Valley region includes the towns of Alamo, Donna,
6 Mercedes, Progreso, Progreso Lakes, San Juan, and Weslaco; this
7 area is a center for agribusiness, with farmers producing
8 sugarcane, grains, and citrus fruit such as grapefruits and
9 oranges; and

10 WHEREAS, The city of Alamo is located in close proximity to
11 the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, which comprises more than
12 2,000 acres of protected land and is home to a wide array of animals
13 and plants; in addition, the town boasts a birding information
14 center and the recently renovated Alamo Central Park; and

15 WHEREAS, Upholding the motto "the City with a Heart in the
16 Heart of the Rio Grande Valley," Donna recently celebrated the
17 opening of the Donna-Rio Bravo International Bridge; representing a
18 federal investment of \$110 million over 10 years, the bridge is
19 expected to facilitate shopping, tourism, and commercial trade to
20 and from Mexico; and

21 WHEREAS, Mercedes has long been a major center for the
22 processing and marketing of livestock, cotton, and vegetables, and
23 it is also known for its boot makers and the shopping opportunities
24 at the Rio Grande Valley Premium Outlets; the annual Rio Grande

1 Valley Livestock Show and Rodeo draws more than 200,000 people to
2 town each year, and the event provides valuable scholarship funds
3 for 4-H and FFA students; and

4 WHEREAS, In addition to being centers for the sugarcane
5 business, Progreso and Progreso Lakes have been serving as gateways
6 to the Rio Grande Valley since the opening of the Progreso/Nuevo
7 Progreso International Bridge in 2003; and

8 WHEREAS, Fast-growing San Juan is the home of the Basilica of
9 Our Lady of San Juan del Valle National Shrine, which attracts
10 multitudes of pilgrims from throughout the United States and
11 Mexico; the town hosts an annual Spring Fiesta and is the site of
12 numerous parks, including Liberty Park, with its flagpole monument
13 that honors those who have served in the U.S. armed forces; and

14 WHEREAS, The city of Weslaco has become a favorite
15 destination for tourists, golfers, retirees, and birders and is the
16 location of two important Texas A&M University research stations;
17 the annual Onion Fest celebrates the development of the famous
18 Texas 1015 onion in Weslaco, and this popular event brings many
19 visitors to the city; and

20 WHEREAS, Throughout the Mid-Valley region, great emphasis is
21 placed on the value of education, and one particularly striking
22 example of the area's educational achievements came in 2010, when
23 *Newsweek* ranked the Science Academy of South Texas in Mercedes as
24 number 12 on its list of "America's Best High Schools"; and

25 WHEREAS, The residents of this dynamic region of the Lone
26 Star State are justifiably proud of their hard work, civic
27 commitment, and innovative spirit, and their efforts have created a

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1 group of notable Texas communities that are well prepared to meet
2 the challenges and opportunities of the future; now, therefore, be
3 it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
5 Legislature hereby recognize March 9, 2011, as Mid-Valley Day at
6 the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere
7 best wishes for an informative and enjoyable stay in Austin.

Martinez
Gonzales of Hidalgo
Munoz, Jr.
Pena
Lucio III

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 561 was adopted by the House on March 3, 2011, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House