

By: Martinez

H.R. No. 603

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 February 27, 2013, to celebrate  
3 Mid-Valley 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 proximity to the  
11 Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, which comprises more than 2,000  
12 acres of protected land and is home to a wide array of animals and  
13 plants; in addition, the town boasts a birding information center  
14 and the popular Alamo Central Park; and

15 WHEREAS, Upholding the motto "the City with a Heart in the  
16 Heart of the Rio Grande Valley," Donna serves as the location of the  
17 Donna-Rio Bravo International Bridge, which helps to facilitate  
18 shopping, tourism, and commercial trade to and from Mexico; and

19 WHEREAS, Mercedes has long been a major center for the  
20 processing and marketing of livestock, cotton, and vegetables, and  
21 it is also known for its boot makers and the shopping opportunities  
22 at the Rio Grande Valley Premium Outlets; the annual Rio Grande  
23 Valley Livestock Show and Rodeo draws more than 200,000 people to  
24 town each year, and the event provides valuable scholarship funds

1 for 4-H and FFA students; and

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, Throughout the Mid-Valley region, great emphasis is  
19 placed on the value of education, and the Science Academy of South  
20 Texas in Mercedes consistently ranks among the top 100 on  
21 *Newsweek's* list of "America's Best High Schools"; and

22 WHEREAS, The residents of this dynamic region of the Lone  
23 Star State are justifiably proud of their hard work, civic  
24 commitment, and innovative spirit, and their efforts have created a  
25 group of notable Texas communities that are well prepared to meet  
26 the challenges and opportunities of the future; now, therefore, be  
27 it

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1           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
2 Legislature hereby recognize February 27, 2013, as Mid-Valley Day  
3 at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere  
4 best wishes for an informative and enjoyable stay in Austin.