

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In the United States, an estimated three million
2 migrant and seasonal farmworkers cultivate, harvest, and prepare
3 crops for market or storage each year; and

4 WHEREAS, The first wave of migrant farmworkers arrived in the
5 United States in the mid-to-late 19th century; these early
6 travelers were experienced miners, workhands from cattle ranches,
7 and indentured servants fleeing Mexican traditional farms; between
8 1850 and 1880, more than 55,000 Mexican workers immigrated to the
9 United States, about two-thirds of them pursuing employment in
10 Texas; and

11 WHEREAS, Though many workers continued to immigrate at the
12 turn of the 20th century, the use of migrant laborers declined
13 during the Great Depression, as internal migrant workers from Dust
14 Bowl states moved West; the major federal labor laws of this era,
15 which established a minimum wage and set 16 as the minimum age for
16 work, excluded farmworkers, who could legally work at the age of 12;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Ethnographic accounts of migrant laborers during
19 that time reveal that most lived and worked under very poor
20 conditions, and many feared that complaining would lead to
21 deportation; in the years that followed, leaders like Cesar Chavez
22 and Dolores Huerta and groups like the United Farm Workers and the
23 National Center for Farmworker Health fought to ensure safer
24 working conditions and better wages; the advocacy for farmworker

1 rights and protection continues under La Union del Pueblo Entero, a
2 sister organization of the United Farm Workers, which has 7,000
3 members in South Texas; and

4 WHEREAS, Migrant farmworkers are the engine that drives the
5 agricultural sector of the United States economy, a \$28 billion
6 industry, yet despite their tremendous contributions, most earn
7 annual incomes below the poverty level; and

8 WHEREAS, In addition to low wages, migrant farmworkers rarely
9 have access to workers' compensation or disability benefits, even
10 though their occupation is one of the most dangerous in America;
11 they suffer from the highest rates of toxic chemical injuries and
12 skin disorders, while only 10 percent report having
13 employer-provided health insurance; the consequences of these
14 conditions are alarming: according to the Centers for Disease
15 Control and Prevention, the life expectancy for migrant farmworkers
16 is 49 years, compared to 73 for the general U.S. population; and

17 WHEREAS, More than three million people work in the
18 agricultural industry in the United States, and one-third of those
19 are hired farmworkers, according to a 2006 report from the U.S.
20 Department of Agriculture; their presence has been shown to
21 increase the overall economic output of the regions in which they
22 labor, including Texas, where more than 131,000 migrant farmworkers
23 actively work, including more than 31,000 in Hidalgo County alone;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, The seasonal and labor-intensive work that migrant
26 farmworkers perform is integral to the success of the agricultural
27 economy of our country and our state, and it is indeed fitting to

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1 honor the men and women engaged in this honorable occupation; now,
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
4 Legislature hereby recognize April 23, 2013, as Migrant Farmworker
5 Day and encourage all Texans to consider the contributions and
6 history of migrant farmworkers in the Lone Star State.

Canales

Straus	M. Gonzalez of El Paso	Oliveira
Allen	N. Gonzalez of El Paso	Orr
Alonzo	Gooden	Otto
Alvarado	Guerra	Paddie
Anchia	Guillen	Parker
Anderson	Gutierrez	Patrick
Ashby	Harless	Perez
Aycock	Harper-Brown	Perry
Bell	Hernandez Luna	Phillips
Bohac	Herrero	Pickett
Bonnen of Brazoria	Hilderbran	Pitts
Bonnen of Galveston	Howard	Price
Branch	Huberty	Raney
Burkett	Hughes	Ratliff
Burnam	Hunter	Raymond
Button	Isaac	Reynolds
Callegari	Johnson	Riddle
Canales	Kacal	Ritter
Capriglione	Keffer	Rodriguez of Bexar
Carter	King of Hemphill	Rodriguez of Travis
Clardy	King of Parker	Rose
Coleman	King of Taylor	Sanford
Collier	King of Zavala	Schaefer
Cook	Kleinschmidt	Sheets
Cortez	Klick	Sheffield of Bell
Craddick	Kolkhorst	Sheffield of Coryell
Creighton	Krause	Simmons
Crownover	Kuempel	Simpson
Dale	Larson	Smith
Darby	Laubenberg	Smithee
Davis of Dallas	Lavender	Springer
J. Davis of Harris	Leach	Stephenson
S. Davis of Harris	Lewis	Stickland
Deshotel	Longoria	Strama
Dukes	Lozano	Taylor
Dutton	Lucio III	Thompson of Brazoria
Eiland	Marquez	Thompson of Harris
Elkins	Martinez	Toth
Fallon	Martinez Fischer	Turner of Collin
Farias	McClendon	Turner of Harris
Farney	Menendez	Turner of Tarrant
Farrar	Miles	Villalba
Fletcher	Miller of Comal	Villarreal
Flynn	Miller of Fort Bend	Vo
Frank	Moody	Walle
Frullo	Morrison	White
Geren	Munoz, Jr.	Workman
Giddings	Murphy	Wu
Goldman	Naishtat	Zedler
Gonzales	Nevarez	Zerwas

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1431 was adopted by the House on April 23, 2013, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House