

By: Guerra

H.R. No. 1478

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Richard Cortez is retiring as mayor of
2 McAllen in 2013, drawing to a close an exemplary career in public
3 service; and

4 WHEREAS, First elected in 2005 and reelected in 2009, Mayor
5 Cortez has worked diligently to promote economic development in
6 McAllen; during his tenure, the city has undertaken several large
7 projects, such as the creation of a convention center, an
8 international bridge, and an arts and entertainment district, as
9 well as an expansion of the airport; these advances have all been
10 made without increasing the tax rate; and

11 WHEREAS, Mayor Cortez has also fostered mutually beneficial
12 diplomatic ties between the city and its neighboring governments
13 across the border, hosting former U.S. president George Bush,
14 former Mexican president Vicente Fox, and five Mexican state
15 governors in McAllen to discuss common issues; the former chair of
16 the Border Trade Alliance and vice chair of the Texas Border
17 Coalition, Mayor Cortez is now assisting the federal government in
18 its efforts to secure our border without impeding legal trade; he
19 received the Distinguished Gold Medal from the governor of the
20 Mexican state of Veracruz for his service in building cultural and
21 business relationships between the State of Veracruz and the City
22 of McAllen; and

23 WHEREAS, Before his mayoral terms, Mr. Cortez was vice chair
24 of the McAllen Public Utility Board, and he served on McAllen's

1 Audit and Investment Committee from 2000 to 2005; he has been
2 president of the local Rio Grande Valley chapter of the Texas
3 Society of Certified Public Accountants and the McAllen Housing
4 Finance Corporation; in addition, he served on the Community
5 Development Block Grant Board and was involved with the
6 International Museum of Art and Science, the University of
7 Texas-Pan American Business Council, the McAllen Economic
8 Development Corporation Board, and the McAllen Chamber of Commerce
9 Board; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Cortez is a valued member of Our Lady of Sorrows
11 Catholic Church, serving as a youth minister and parish council
12 president; he is also an honorary member of the local Rotary Club
13 and has volunteered his time with the Boys & Girls Club of McAllen
14 Metro for many years; and

15 WHEREAS, In recognition of his work, Mayor Cortez has
16 received numerous accolades, including the first Teddy Roosevelt
17 Leadership Award given by the McAllen Chamber of Commerce and the
18 2009-2010 Distinguished Public Service Award from the Texas Society
19 of Certified Public Accountants; and

20 WHEREAS, During his retirement, Mayor Cortez looks forward to
21 spending more time with his wife, Elva, and their 4 children and 11
22 grandchildren; and

23 WHEREAS, Richard Cortez has proven himself a leader of great
24 vision and ability, and he may indeed reflect on his
25 accomplishments with pride as he looks forward to the next exciting
26 chapter of his life; now, therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas

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1 Legislature hereby congratulate the Honorable Richard Cortez on the
2 occasion of his retirement as mayor of McAllen and commend him for
3 his outstanding contributions to the community; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for Mayor Cortez as an expression of high regard by the
6 Texas House of Representatives.