

By: Guerra

H.R. No. 244

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A number of caring individuals and organizations in  
2 McAllen have given generously of their time and resources to  
3 alleviate the crisis brought on by the recent wave of immigrants  
4 entering the Rio Grande Valley; and

5           WHEREAS, During the past year, migrants--mostly families and  
6 unaccompanied children--have crossed the border in unforeseen  
7 numbers, many of them fleeing violence in their Central American  
8 home countries with the hope of gaining asylum in the U.S.; the  
9 sudden influx of immigrants has placed an overwhelming strain on  
10 the community, contributing to substandard and sometimes desperate  
11 conditions at the facilities used to house these men, women, and  
12 children; and

13           WHEREAS, Across the city of McAllen and neighboring  
14 communities, civic and religious leaders have been stirred to  
15 respond to this humanitarian emergency with initiative and  
16 compassion; at the request of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande  
17 Valley, Sacred Heart Catholic Church in downtown McAllen has  
18 expanded its offerings to further serve as a gathering point for  
19 volunteers and a place where they could supply new arrivals with  
20 nutritious meals, water, clean clothing, and temporary shelter;  
21 additional civic and charitable groups are answering the call with  
22 donations and other means of assistance, and doctors are staffing  
23 mobile medical units in order to treat individuals with health  
24 concerns; and

1           WHEREAS, Several public officials have provided important  
2 support for the relief operations; among them are Hidalgo County  
3 Judge Ramon Garcia, Hidalgo County emergency management  
4 coordinator Oscar Montoya, City of McAllen Mayor Jim Darling, and  
5 City of McAllen Chief of Police Victor Rodriguez; and

6           WHEREAS, Leaders in the charitable effort are members of  
7 Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley and the organization's  
8 executive director, Sister Norma Pimentel, Dr. Carlos Cardenas of  
9 Doctors Hospital at Renaissance, and physicians Dr. Layra Canales  
10 and Dr. Pedro Montano; and

11           WHEREAS, Those who come to the aid of others in a time of need  
12 exemplify the noblest qualities of the human spirit, and through  
13 their determination to help, these selfless men and women have made  
14 a positive difference in the lives of countless people; now,  
15 therefore, be it

16           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
17 Legislature hereby honor the many individuals and organizations who  
18 are participating in the humanitarian relief efforts in McAllen and  
19 extend to them sincere gratitude for their hard work, kindness, and  
20 dedication.