

By: Lucio III

H.R. No. 378

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of neighboring communities Harlingen and
2 San Benito are gathering in Austin on February 11, 2015, to
3 celebrate Harlingen-San Benito Day at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, From the moment in 1904 when Lon C. Hill placed his
5 proposed town site astride the tracks of the St. Louis,
6 Brownsville, and Mexico Railway, Harlingen was destined to become a
7 crossroads; the first train passed through the rugged settlement
8 that railroad workers called "Rattlesnake Junction" on July 4,
9 1904; and

10 WHEREAS, San Benito, which has benefited from the leadership
11 of such pioneers as Colonel Sam Robertson, has contributed to the
12 economic rise of Cameron County and the Rio Grande Valley through
13 the establishment of an expansive irrigation system and a
14 significant railroad system; and

15 WHEREAS, Harlingen's World War II army air field evolved into
16 Harlingen Air Force Base and then Valley International Airport, the
17 largest airport in the Rio Grande Valley; additionally, Harlingen's
18 Free Trade Bridge gives access to Mexico, and its barge port
19 connects to the Intracoastal Waterway; and

20 WHEREAS, San Benito has been home to a number of Texas
21 legends, including Olympic medalist Bobby Morrow and music star
22 Freddy Fender; the city also has a proud tradition of military
23 service; native sons and daughters have served in every U.S.
24 conflict, and during World War II, the municipal airport was used

1 for reconnaissance of the Gulf of Mexico; and

2 WHEREAS, The semitropical climate, natural resources, and
3 friendly people have long made Harlingen and San Benito
4 destinations for travelers, including Winter Texans, birders, and
5 other outdoor enthusiasts; today the Iwo Jima Memorial, the
6 historical downtown district with its mural and heritage trails,
7 and an abundance of sports fields and parks have expanded
8 Harlingen's list of attractions; and

9 WHEREAS, San Benito promotes, preserves, and supports
10 cultural arts and programs to generate tourism to Texas through
11 such outstanding organizations as the Texas Conjunto Music Hall of
12 Fame Museum, the San Benito Historical Museum, the Freddy Fender
13 Museum, and the Narciso Martinez Cultural Arts Center; and

14 WHEREAS, The caring hearts of Harlingen and San Benito
15 residents have spurred the community's development into a regional
16 health care hub with assets including Valley Baptist Health System,
17 Harlingen Medical Center, and Muniz Rio Grande Pharmacy; and

18 WHEREAS, Residents of both cities have long understood
19 education as a key to the future and have supported efforts to
20 expand public and private schools, including remarkable assets such
21 as Texas State Technical College and the Regional Academic Health
22 Center, which has played an important role in medical services and
23 education across the Valley since 1999; and

24 WHEREAS, Together, Harlingen and San Benito create a dynamic
25 community that more than 100,000 people are proud to call home; now,
26 therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas

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1 Legislature hereby recognize February 11, 2015, as Harlingen-San
2 Benito Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting
3 delegation sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable
4 visit.