

By: Muñoz, Jr.

H.R. No. 443

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A distinguished delegation from South Texas is
2 visiting Austin on February 10, 2015, to celebrate Rio Grande
3 Valley Day at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Enjoying a strategic location on the Gulf of Mexico
5 and along the Mexican border, the Rio Grande Valley was an important
6 ranching region when Texas became the nation's 28th state in 1845;
7 over time, the economy shifted from ranching to agriculture, and
8 the Valley became the state's center of citrus and vegetable
9 production; and

10 WHEREAS, In the 1960s, industry flourished and international
11 trade became increasingly prominent; the region has contributed
12 significantly to the tremendous increase in commerce across the
13 U.S.-Mexico border, which now averages more than \$1.3 billion in
14 goods and services per day, and also accounts for a major portion of
15 the \$4.5 billion a year that Mexican nationals spend on retail
16 purchases in Texas; and

17 WHEREAS, The Valley has over 1.3 million residents, and local
18 and state officials have focused on the need to expand access to
19 higher education, strengthen the workforce, and introduce
20 pioneering businesses, such as United Launch Alliance, which has
21 been engineering rockets in the area for over a decade, and now,
22 SpaceX, which promises to be the Rio Grande Valley's gateway to
23 space exploration; furthermore, in 2013, the legislature created
24 The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, partnering with SpaceX

1 to create STARGATE, the first research center of excellence for
2 UTRGV; the university is enrolling its first class in Fall 2015, and
3 the new UTRGV Medical School is slated to open the following year;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The focus for today's special legislative event is
6 border security, workforce development, infrastructure, and higher
7 education, and major sponsors include The University of Texas Rio
8 Grande Valley, the City of Harlingen, the City of Edinburg, the City
9 of McAllen, the Port of Brownsville, the RGV Partnership, the
10 McAllen Chamber of Commerce, the Mission Economic Development
11 Corporation, South Texas College, the Anzalduas International
12 Bridge, the McAllen Economic Development Corporation, the Edinburg
13 Economic Development Corporation, and the Edinburg Chamber of
14 Commerce; several private sector businesses, such as AEP,
15 Linebarger, and Texas Regional Bank, are also promoting greater
16 regional cooperation in the 21st century; and

17 WHEREAS, A vibrant region with a rich heritage, the Rio
18 Grande Valley is poised to take advantage of tremendous
19 opportunities for continued economic development, and it is indeed
20 most fitting to honor Valley residents for their dedication to
21 building a bright and prosperous future for the area; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
24 Legislature hereby recognize February 10, 2015, as Rio Grande
25 Valley Day at the State Capitol and extend to all participants
26 sincere best wishes for a productive and enjoyable visit.