

By: Martinez

H.R. No. 444

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of the Mid-Valley region of Texas
2 are gathering in Austin on February 11, 2015, to celebrate
3 Mid-Valley Day at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Located in eastern Hidalgo County in the Rio Grande
5 Valley, the Mid-Valley region includes the towns of Alamo, Donna,
6 Mercedes, Pharr, Progreso, Progreso Lakes, San Juan, and Weslaco;
7 this area is a center for agribusiness, with farmers producing
8 sugarcane, grains, and citrus fruit such as grapefruits and
9 oranges; and

10 WHEREAS, The city of Alamo is located in proximity to the
11 Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, which encompasses more than
12 2,000 acres of protected land and is home to a wide array of animals
13 and plants; in addition, the town boasts a birding information
14 center and the popular Alamo Central Park; and

15 WHEREAS, Upholding the motto "the City with a Heart in the
16 Heart of the Rio Grande Valley," Donna serves as the location of the
17 Donna-Rio Bravo International Bridge, which helps to facilitate
18 shopping, tourism, and commercial trade to and from Mexico; and

19 WHEREAS, Mercedes has long been a major center for the
20 processing and marketing of livestock, cotton, and vegetables, and
21 it is also known for its boot makers and the shopping opportunities
22 at the Rio Grande Valley Premium Outlets; the annual Rio Grande
23 Valley Livestock Show and Rodeo draws more than 200,000 people to
24 town each year, and the event provides valuable scholarship funds

1 for 4-H and FFA students; and

2 WHEREAS, Known as the Hub City of the Rio Grande Valley, Pharr
3 is home to the Pharr International Bridge, which for more than two
4 decades has served as a reliable passage for exported produce and
5 textiles; moreover, the town has been recognized as a Triple Crown
6 City in honor of national awards it has received for commitment to
7 historic preservation, economic development, and civic excellence;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, In addition to being centers for the sugarcane
10 business, Progreso and Progreso Lakes have been serving as gateways
11 to the Rio Grande Valley since the opening of the Progreso/Nuevo
12 Progreso International Bridge in 2003; and

13 WHEREAS, Fast-growing San Juan is the home of the Basilica of
14 Our Lady of San Juan del Valle National Shrine, which attracts
15 multitudes of pilgrims from throughout the United States and
16 Mexico; the town hosts an annual Spring Fiesta and is the site of
17 numerous parks, including Liberty Park, with its flagpole monument
18 honoring those who have served in the U.S. armed forces; and

19 WHEREAS, The city of Weslaco has become a favorite
20 destination for tourists, golfers, retirees, and birders, and it is
21 the location of two important Texas A&M University research
22 stations; the annual Onion Fest celebrates the development of the
23 famous Texas 1015 onion in Weslaco, and this popular event brings
24 many visitors to the city; and

25 WHEREAS, Throughout the Mid-Valley region, great emphasis is
26 placed on the value of education; the Science Academy of South Texas
27 in Mercedes consistently ranks among the top 100 on Newsweek's list

1 of "America's Best High Schools"; in addition, IDEA Public Schools,
2 a nonprofit network of charter schools with 26 campuses in the Rio
3 Grande Valley alone, is helping young Texans build a strong
4 foundation for future success; 99 percent of IDEA alumni go on to
5 enroll in a college or a university, and they graduate from those
6 institutions at five times the national average for students of
7 similar backgrounds; and

8 WHEREAS, The residents of this dynamic region of the Lone
9 Star State are justifiably proud of their hard work, civic
10 commitment, and innovative spirit, and their efforts have created a
11 group of notable Texas communities that are well prepared to meet
12 the challenges and opportunities of the future; now, therefore, be
13 it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
15 Legislature hereby recognize February 11, 2015, as Mid-Valley Day
16 at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere
17 best wishes for an informative and enjoyable stay in Austin.