

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 151

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Mercedes has long been a major center for the processing and marketing of livestock, cotton, and vegetables, and it is also known for its boot makers and the shopping opportunities at the Rio Grande Valley Premium Outlets; the annual Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show and Rodeo draws more than 200,000 people to town each year, and the event provides valuable scholarship funds for 4-H and FFA students; and

WHEREAS, Pharr is widely recognized as the "Hub City" of the Rio Grande Valley and is the proud owner and operator of the Pharr International Bridge, which for over 20 years has served as a safe, convenient, and dependable conduit of fruits, vegetables, and vital textiles entering this country; in recognition of its commitment to historic preservation, economic development, and international commerce, this All-America City will forever carry the distinction of being Texas' first "Triple Crown City"; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Throughout the Mid-Valley region, great emphasis is placed on the value of education, and the Science Academy of

South Texas in Mercedes consistently ranks among the top 100 on *Newsweek's* list of "America's Best High Schools"; IDEA Public Schools, a nonprofit network of public charter schools, operates 26 schools in the Rio Grande Valley; with a mission of preparing all students for success in college and beyond, these schools have helped to educate countless young people who have gone on to become confident, contributing members of their communities; and

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

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby recognize February 11, 2015, as Mid-Valley Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best wishes for an informative and enjoyable stay in Austin; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this special day.

Lucio

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 11, 2015.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate