

By: Muñoz, Jr.

H.R. No. 117

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The annual Texas Citrus Fiesta is being held in  
2 Mission in January 2017, and this year's celebration represents a  
3 special milestone, the 80th time this popular event has taken  
4 place; and

5 WHEREAS, The Texas Citrus Fiesta was created in 1932 by Paul  
6 Ord and the Young Men's Business League to promote the Rio Grande  
7 Valley's burgeoning citrus industry and to showcase the region's  
8 abundant winter harvest of grapefruit and oranges; set against the  
9 background of citrus groves, that first outdoor festival was themed  
10 a "Coronation and Pageant of Citrus," and it featured a parade, a  
11 concert, a football game, and the coronation of King Citrus and  
12 Queen Citrianna, in addition to other events; and

13 WHEREAS, Apart from a few years during World War II and one  
14 year when the crop was damaged by a hurricane, the event has been  
15 held annually ever since, and it has grown to encompass a youth show  
16 exhibit tent, a fun fair, a vaquero cook-off, and a formal black-tie  
17 gala; special highlights include the Parade of Oranges, featuring  
18 marching bands, dignitaries, horse riders, and floats covered with  
19 citrus and agricultural products, and the coronation of the fiesta  
20 royalty; and

21 WHEREAS, Another highly anticipated part of the festival is  
22 the Product Costume Show, in which contestants from around the  
23 region appear in imaginative outfits decorated with dried,  
24 powdered, and crystallized fruits and vegetables grown in the Rio

1 Grande Valley; these remarkable works of art have been displayed at  
2 the White House in Washington, D.C., and in the Texas State Capitol  
3 in Austin, and they have been featured over the years in newsreels,  
4 in *Ripley's Believe It Or Not!*, and in such magazines as *National*  
5 *Geographic*, *Southern Living*, and *Texas Monthly*; and

6 WHEREAS, For eight decades, the Texas Citrus Fiesta has been  
7 a popular celebration of agricultural abundance and vibrant  
8 community spirit, and its continuing success is a testament to the  
9 commitment, creativity, and pride of the people of Mission and the  
10 Rio Grande Valley; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
12 Legislature hereby commemorate the 2017 Texas Citrus Fiesta and  
13 extend to its organizers, participants, and guests sincere best  
14 wishes as they take part in the 80th celebration of this special  
15 event; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
17 prepared for the Texas Citrus Fiesta as an expression of high regard  
18 by the Texas House of Representatives.