

By: Oliveira

H.R. No. 219

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Brownsville are gathering in Austin on
2 January 31, 2017, to celebrate Brownsville Day at the State
3 Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, The site of Brownsville was originally settled under
5 a 1781 Spanish land grant, and in 1846, it became the location of a
6 fortification constructed by soldiers led by General Zachary Taylor
7 in preparation for the coming war with Mexico; named Fort Brown in
8 honor of Major Jacob Brown, who died in an attack on the United
9 States forces, the area became part of the State of Texas when the
10 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed in 1848; and

11 WHEREAS, Brownsville was made county seat of the newly
12 established Cameron County in January 1849, and it soon replaced
13 Matamoros as the leading trade center for the area; from its early
14 days, the city had a cosmopolitan and multilingual character, with
15 the 1850 Census showing that two-thirds of the residents were from
16 the Eastern United States and the remainder from Mexico, Ireland,
17 France, England, and Germany; and

18 WHEREAS, Now the largest city in the Lower Rio Grande Valley
19 with more than 183,000 people, Brownsville serves as an active
20 gateway between two countries that are joined by hundreds of years
21 of tradition and family; the Brownsville Historical Association,
22 which has served the city for more than six decades, operates the
23 Brownsville Heritage Complex and offers locals and visitors the
24 opportunity to explore the connection between the region's cultural

1 art and history; and

2 WHEREAS, Residents and tourists further benefit from the
3 city's numerous outdoor attractions, and in 2015, the Texas
4 Legislature named Brownsville the Bicycling Capital of the Rio
5 Grande Valley, acknowledging the city's adoption of a bicycle and
6 trail master plan; outdoor adventurers can visit such sites as the
7 Brownsville Historic Battlefield Trails, Resaca de la Palma State
8 Park, and the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge;
9 additionally, the Gladys Porter Zoo, which is dedicated to the
10 preservation of nature through a variety of important programs,
11 draws hundreds of thousands of people each year; and

12 WHEREAS, A dynamic community that draws on a rich history as
13 it prepares for an exciting future, Brownsville has established
14 itself as an outstanding place in which to live and work, and its
15 citizens may take great pride in the area's ongoing achievements;
16 now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
18 Legislature hereby recognize January 31, 2017, as Brownsville Day
19 at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere
20 best wishes for a meaningful and memorable stay in Austin.