

By: Oliveira

H.R. No. 312

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A distinguished delegation from South Texas is
2 visiting Austin on February 7, 2017, to celebrate Rio Grande Valley
3 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, Industry flourished in the 1960s, and the region
11 contributed significantly to the tremendous increase in commerce
12 across the U.S.-Mexico border; with over 800,000 trucks, 11.5
13 million cars, and 5.8 million pedestrians crossing its ports of
14 entry, the Rio Grande Valley is a powerhouse that accounts for more
15 than \$1.3 billion in goods and services added to the economy of the
16 Lone Star State each day; and

17 WHEREAS, The Valley has over 1.5 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 programs, such as SpaceX, which partnered with The University of
21 Texas Rio Grande Valley to create STARGATE, a program that enables
22 students to be involved in all aspects of space missions;
23 furthermore, in July 2016, the new UTRGV Medical School enrolled
24 its first class of 55 medical students; and

1 WHEREAS, The Texas A&M University System officially broke
2 ground in December 2016 to expand in McAllen with a campus that will
3 offer programs in engineering, technology, agriculture, and
4 biomedical and lab sciences; and

5 WHEREAS, The focus for today's special legislative event is
6 workforce development, transportation and border infrastructure,
7 UTRGV Medical School funding, the Texas A&M Healthy South Texas
8 initiative, and the Rio Grande Valley border image; major sponsors
9 include The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Texas A&M
10 University, South Texas College, The University of Texas Rio Grande
11 Valley Foundation, the Cities of McAllen, Edinburg, Harlingen, and
12 Weslaco, the Starr County Industrial Foundation, the Port of
13 Brownsville, Rio Grande Valley Partnership, McAllen Convention &
14 Visitors Bureau, the Edinburg, Weslaco, and McAllen Chambers of
15 Commerce, Brownsville Community Improvement Corporation, the
16 McAllen Public Utility Board, the Economic Development
17 Corporations of Edinburg, Mission, McAllen, Harlingen, Weslaco,
18 and Pharr, Rio South Texas Economic Council, McAllen-Hidalgo
19 International Bridge, Anzalduas International Bridge, and the Food
20 Bank of the RGV; furthermore, several private sector businesses,
21 such as Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP, the Warren Group
22 Architects, Shepard Walton King, *the Monitor*, LRGVDC Regional,
23 Small Cities Coalition, Texas Gas Service, BBVA Compass Bank, and
24 IBC Bank, are helping to promote greater regional cooperation in
25 the 21st century; and

26 WHEREAS, A vibrant region with a rich heritage, the Rio
27 Grande Valley is poised to take advantage of tremendous

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1 opportunities for continued economic development, and it is indeed
2 most fitting to honor Valley residents for their dedication to
3 building a bright and prosperous future for the area; now,
4 therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
6 Legislature hereby recognize February 7, 2017, as Rio Grande Valley
7 Day at the State Capitol and extend to all participants sincere best
8 wishes for an informative and enjoyable visit.