

By: Martinez

H.R. No. 187

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A distinguished delegation from South Texas is
2 visiting Austin on February 5, 2019, 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, In the 1960s, industry flourished and international
11 trade became increasingly prominent; the region has contributed
12 significantly to the tremendous increase in commerce across the
13 United States-Mexico border, with more than 946,000 trucks, 11.7
14 million cars carrying 24.3 million passengers, 28,000 buses
15 carrying over 300,000 passengers, and 6.2 million pedestrians
16 crossing Rio Grande Valley ports of entry and averaging more than
17 \$140 million in goods and services per day, with over \$51 billion
18 in commercial trade per year flowing across 13 land ports of entry;
19 the Rio Grande Valley is an economic powerhouse for the State of
20 Texas with approximately \$12.5 billion in taxable sales recorded in
21 reporting year 2018; and

22 WHEREAS, The Valley has over 1.5 million residents, with
23 approximately 600,000 individuals under the age of 25, and local
24 and state officials have focused on the need to expand access to

1 higher education and health care, strengthen the workforce,
2 increase transportation and ports of entry infrastructure, and
3 increase funding for public education; The University of Texas Rio
4 Grande Valley serves over 28,600 students; the UTRGV School of
5 Medicine is in its third year of operation with 155 medical students
6 and 169 medical residents in 10 GME programs and over 20 patient
7 care sites; and

8 WHEREAS, The Texas A&M University System recently opened its
9 McAllen Higher Education Center, which will be linked to the campus
10 in College Station and will offer programs in engineering,
11 technology, biomedical sciences, agriculture, and laboratory
12 sciences; and

13 WHEREAS, The six higher education institutions in the Rio
14 Grande Valley, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Texas A&M
15 University McAllen Higher Education Center, Texas A&M University
16 Health Science Center, South Texas College, Texas Southmost
17 College, and Texas State Technical College, serve a student
18 population of over 70,000; and

19 WHEREAS, Major sponsors for the day's legislative event
20 include The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Texas A&M
21 University, Texas Southmost College, the City of McAllen, the City
22 of Edinburg, the City of Weslaco, the City of Pharr, the City of
23 Brownsville, the Port of Brownsville, the Lower Rio Grande Valley
24 Development Council, the Starr County Industrial Foundation,
25 Willacy County, and the Rio Grande Valley Partnership, as well as
26 several private sector businesses, such as Pathfinder Public
27 Affairs, Atlas, Hall & Rodriguez, LLP, IBC Bank, Texas Gas Service,

1 Uber, and The Coca-Cola Company, all of which are promoting greater
2 regional cooperation in the 21st century; and

3 WHEREAS, A vibrant region with a rich heritage, the Rio
4 Grande Valley is poised to take advantage of tremendous
5 opportunities for continued economic development, and it is indeed
6 most fitting to honor Valley residents for their dedication to
7 building a bright and prosperous future for the area; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
10 Legislature hereby recognize February 5, 2019, as Rio Grande Valley
11 Day at the State Capitol and extend to all participants sincere best
12 wishes for a productive and enjoyable visit.