

By: Lucio III

H.R. No. 639

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Harlingen and San Benito are gathering
2 in Austin on March 6, 2019, to celebrate Harlingen-San Benito Day at
3 the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, From the time in 1904 when Lon C. Hill chose a site
5 alongside the St. Louis, Brownsville, and Mexico Railway as the
6 location for a new town, Harlingen was destined to become a
7 crossroads of commerce; transportation kept pace as the city
8 developed, and today residents and businesses benefit from its
9 proximity to the Free Trade International Bridge at Los Indios, and
10 the Port of Harlingen provides access to the Intracoastal Waterway;
11 additionally, the city's World War II airfield has developed into
12 the region's largest airport, Valley International; and

13 WHEREAS, The Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce has served
14 the city since the chamber's formation in 1919; a century later, it
15 is composed of 915 active members and maintains a serious
16 commitment to attaining the goals of the organization and leading
17 business activities in the community; and

18 WHEREAS, The area's climate and abundant natural resources
19 have made Harlingen a popular destination for numerous travelers,
20 including winter Texans, birders, and outdoor enthusiasts;
21 attractions include the Iwo Jima memorial, the historic downtown
22 district, and a variety of parks and sports facilities; and

23 WHEREAS, Through the creation of an expansive irrigation
24 system and a significant network of railroads, the nearby city of

1 San Benito developed its early economy as a shipping center for
2 citrus and vegetables from the lower Rio Grande Valley; today, the
3 city enjoys easy access to the border, a robust industrial park, and
4 a growing tourist industry; and

5 WHEREAS, San Benito has helped to promote, preserve, and
6 support a number of important cultural institutions, and the city
7 is home to the Texas Conjunto Music Hall of Fame and Museum, the San
8 Benito History Museum, the Freddy Fender Museum, and the Narciso
9 Martinez Cultural Arts Center; and

10 WHEREAS, Harlingen and San Benito have become a regional
11 health care hub, with the Valley Baptist Health System, the
12 Harlingen Medical Center, and the Su Clinica Familiar; residents of
13 both cities also benefit from the educational opportunities
14 presented by Texas State Technical College and the Regional
15 Academic Health Center; and

16 WHEREAS, The people of Harlingen and San Benito may take
17 great pride in their achievements as they work together to build a
18 bright future, and it is indeed fitting to honor them for their
19 contributions to the story of the Lone Star State; now, therefore,
20 be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
22 Legislature hereby recognize March 6, 2019, as Harlingen-San Benito
23 Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation
24 sincere best wishes for an informative and enjoyable stay in
25 Austin.