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By:  Muñoz, Jr. H.R. No. 306

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Proud citizens of Mission are gathering in Austin on March 29, 2023, to celebrate Mission Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, The city of Mission was founded in 1908, the year the Missouri Pacific Railroad established a station in the area, and the city was named for La Lomita Mission, which was located nearby; since then, Mission, home of the grapefruit, has grown to be a thriving city with a population of more than 86,000 people; and

WHEREAS, The first citrus trees in the Rio Grande Valley were planted in the Mission area; today, the citrus industry is a multimillion-dollar business and is celebrated each year at the Texas Citrus Fiesta; and

WHEREAS, Mission is a center for international trade and entrepreneurship, and its Anzalduas International Bridge provides a vital trade and tourism connection to Mexico; several international manufacturers and other dynamic firms call Mission home, including Stanley Black & Decker, Royal Technologies, Wonderful Citrus, Killam Development, and the Texas International Produce Association; Mission EDC manages the city's Center for Education and Economic Development, a unique, 55,000-square-foot business incubator and coworking space that has spawned numerous local enterprises; and

WHEREAS, A popular destination for "Winter Texans," Mission boasts about 50 RV parks and welcomes an estimated 25,000 seasonal residents during the coldest months of the year; and

WHEREAS, Recreational opportunities are abundant in Mission, with such attractions as the National Butterfly Center, the World Birding Center headquarters, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, and the 10-mile Mission Hike and Bike Trail; since 2019, Mission has been recognized as an All-America City; and

WHEREAS, Mission was immortalized in Larry McMurtry's novel and television miniseries, Lonesome Dove, and notable residents have included United States senator and treasury secretary Lloyd Bentsen and United States congressman Kika de la Garza; moreover, Mission was the childhood home of legendary Dallas Cowboys coach Tom Landry and a second home to Texas governor Allan Shivers, Oscar-winning actress Sissy Spacek, and three-time presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan; and

WHEREAS, Mission Day at the Capitol provides an opportunity to honor the border city's heritage and its many charms, which are enjoyed by residents and vacationers alike; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby recognize March 29, 2023, as Mission Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable stay in Austin.