

By: Guerra

H.R. No. 68

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of McAllen are gathering at the State  
2 Capitol on February 4, 2025, to celebrate this vibrant South Texas  
3 community; and

4 WHEREAS, McAllen traces its history to 1797, when Spanish  
5 settler Jose Manuel Gomez founded the Santa Anita Ranch in what is  
6 now southern Hidalgo County; the ranch grew in size and was  
7 eventually inherited by Mr. Gomez's great-granddaughter, Salome  
8 Balli, who married John McAllen; together, they continued to add to  
9 the property and renamed it McAllen Ranch; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1904, the St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico  
11 Railroad arrived, and that same year, Mr. McAllen and other early  
12 settlers launched the McAllen Townsite Company and established a  
13 community that was named for John McAllen; other developers founded  
14 East McAllen in 1907, and the two towns eventually merged, becoming  
15 home to a growing number of businesses, churches, residences, and a  
16 newspaper; by 1920, the city had a population of some 6,000  
17 residents; and

18 WHEREAS, Over the last five decades, McAllen has grown into a  
19 thriving center for business, commerce, and government in the Rio  
20 Grande Valley; as a result of its retail tax strength, the city has  
21 one of the lowest property tax rates in the region, and it continues  
22 to be listed among the fastest-growing metropolitan statistical  
23 areas in the country; *U.S. News & World Report* ranked McAllen No. 3  
24 in the category of best places to live in the U.S. for quality of

1 life for 2020-2021, and it was recently rated by the publication as  
2 the second-best place to live in Texas for 2024-2025; furthermore,  
3 SmartAsset ranked McAllen as the third-safest city in America in  
4 2023; and

5 WHEREAS, McAllen is renowned for its natural beauty and is  
6 home to Quinta Mazatlan, a Spanish revival estate set amid  
7 sprawling tropical gardens; this unique conference and events  
8 center encompasses quiet trails winding through more than 15 acres  
9 of birding habitat that is visited by more than 500 species; and

10 WHEREAS, The city also features a rich array of cultural  
11 attractions, and in 2022, Governor Greg Abbott announced that  
12 McAllen had been named a Music Friendly Community by the Texas Music  
13 Office, a designation that will help the city to foster further  
14 economic development related to the music industry; and

15 WHEREAS, McAllen has built a reputation as an outstanding  
16 place to live, work, and raise a family, and its citizens may indeed  
17 take great pride in the prominent role that their city continues to  
18 play in the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas  
20 Legislature hereby recognize February 4, 2025, as McAllen Day at  
21 the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere  
22 best wishes for a memorable visit to Austin.