

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 299

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A distinguished delegation from South Texas is
2 visiting Austin on February 19, 2025, to celebrate Rio Grande
3 Valley 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 1.15 million trucks,
14 11.7 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 in
18 commercial trade per year flowing across various land ports of
19 entry; the Rio Grande Valley is an economic powerhouse for the State
20 of Texas with approximately \$47.16 billion in taxable sales
21 recorded in reporting year 2024; and

22 WHEREAS, The Valley has around 1.4 million residents, with
23 approximately 565,000 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 some 35,000 students; the UTRGV School of
5 Medicine is in its ninth year of operation with numerous GME
6 programs and patient care sites; and

7 WHEREAS, The six higher education institutions in the Rio
8 Grande Valley, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, the Texas
9 A&M University Higher Education Center at McAllen, the Texas A&M
10 University Health Science Center, South Texas College, Texas
11 Southmost College, and Texas State Technical College, serve a
12 student population of more than 100,000; and

13 WHEREAS, Major sponsors for the day's legislative event
14 include the Texas Regional Bank, UTRGV, the Edinburg Economic
15 Development Corporation, Linebarger Attorneys at Law, Charter
16 Communications, the City of Edinburg, Texas Gas Service, the Texas
17 International Produce Association, AEP, Raise Your Hand Texas,
18 NextDecade, Doctors Hospital at Renaissance, and AT&T, all of which
19 are promoting greater regional cooperation in the 21st century; and

20 WHEREAS, A vibrant region with a rich heritage, the Rio
21 Grande Valley is poised to take advantage of tremendous
22 opportunities for continued economic development, and it is indeed
23 most fitting to honor Valley residents for their dedication to
24 building a bright and prosperous future for the area; now,
25 therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas
27 Legislature hereby recognize February 19, 2025, as Rio Grande

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1 Valley Day at the State Capitol and extend to all participants
2 sincere best wishes for a productive and enjoyable visit.