



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Irma Chapa, Director of Communications/ C: 956-995-2815/ E: ichapa@mcallen.net

Celebrating 100 Years of the McAllen-Hidalgo International Bridge ***Honoring a century of connection, commerce, and binational partnership***

A century of connection, commerce, and cross-border collaboration was celebrated Friday as community leaders, elected officials, and international dignitaries gathered to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the McAllen-Hidalgo International Bridge, one of Rio Grande Valley's most significant international gateways.

The centennial celebration recognized the bridge's enduring role in connecting the United States and Mexico while strengthening regional economic development, international trade, tourism, and cultural exchange. The ceremony began with an invocation from Supervisory U.S. Customs and Border Protection Chaplain Adan Guajardo, setting the stage for a celebration honoring the partnerships and shared progress that have defined the bridge's first century.

McAllen Mayor Javier Villalobos reflected on the bridge's significance as a cornerstone of the region's growth and the lasting relationships it has helped build between communities on both sides of the border. He emphasized that the bridge represents more than a physical connection—it serves as a pathway for economic opportunity, cultural exchange, and collaboration between neighboring communities. Hidalgo Mayor Sergio Coronado and Reynosa Mayor Carlos Peña Ortiz emphasized the importance of continued binational cooperation and the strength of partnerships between border cities, noting how these relationships have remained resilient and essential even during challenging times, including the COVID-19 pandemic. Their remarks recognized the bridge as a vital link that brings communities together, supports regional prosperity, and strengthens the connections that have defined the border region for generations.

Texas State Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa recognized the bridge's role in supporting regional commerce and strengthening the connection between South Texas and Mexico, while City of McAllen Assistant City Manager and Superintendent of Bridges Juan Olaguibel spoke to the bridge's continued importance as a vital gateway for transportation, trade, and economic activity.

Since opening in 1926, the McAllen-Hidalgo International Bridge has served as far more than a port of entry. It has connected families, supported businesses, facilitated the movement of goods, and helped shape McAllen into the thriving international city it is today.

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"The McAllen-Hidalgo International Bridge has been instrumental in shaping our community's success for the past 100 years," said Mayor Javier Villalobos. "For a century, it has connected people, businesses, and opportunities while serving as a catalyst for economic growth and regional prosperity. As we celebrate this historic milestone, we also look ahead with a shared commitment to strengthening infrastructure that will ensure this gateway continues to serve our community and support binational collaboration."

Today, the McAllen-Hidalgo International Bridge remains a vital link between two nations, serving as a symbol of cooperation, shared prosperity, and the enduring relationships that continue to shape the border region.

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About the City of McAllen

Founded in 1904 and incorporated in 1911, the City of McAllen has grown from a small agricultural community into one of the most vibrant and fastest growing cities along the U.S.-Mexico border. Known as the City of Palms, McAllen serves as a hub for international trade, retail, tourism, and culture in the Rio Grande Valley.

Today, the city employs more than 2,600 public servants across 41 departments, delivering essential services to a community of more than 150,000 residents. City leadership remains committed to transparent governance, fiscal responsibility and enhancing quality of life through innovation, infrastructure, and community engagement. For more information, visit www.mcallen.net