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GUILLEN SALUTES RECOGNITION OF HISTORIC THEATRE

Three Rivers Rialto Theatre Becomes Official Registered Texas Historic Landmark

LIVE OAK COUNTY – On early **Saturday morning, April 29**, the historic Rialto Theatre of Three Rivers was granted an official Registered Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) medallion from the Texas Historical Commission. State Representative Ryan Guillen (D-Rural South Texas) commends the Three Rivers community and the Texas Historical Commission for their efforts in bringing the RTHL medallion to fruition.

"Live Oak County has one of the oldest and richest histories of Texas," said Guillen, "and the Rialto Theatre has brought families, friends, and the community together for nearly 70 years. I am more than happy to support the historical recognition of this theater and salute the work of both the Live Oak County Historical Commission and the Economic Development Corporation of Three Rivers for saving and restoring this historic building."

The Rialto Theatre was first opened in 1948 by W. H. and J. S. Hall. Public social venues set the tone for community standards in the early twentieth century, and the Rialto theater quickly became an important rendezvous for friends and family in the small Texas town. People were thrilled not to have to drive to Corpus or San Antonio to enjoy the new modern day wonder.

In 1981, the theatre closed completely and remained vacant, and weather damaged, until 2000, when it was purchased by the Three Rivers Economic Development Corporation. With the community's help, the theater underwent an extensive renovation, and by 2001 it was reopened with a modern interior, new seating, 21st century technology, and two screens offering a choice of venues each week. Today the theater serves as a reminder of Three Rivers' early development and a testament to the community's desire for growth and improvement.

"I am proud to represent the outstanding community of Three Rivers," said Guillen. "I thank the Texas Historical Commission for recognizing the historic value of the Rialto Theatre."

Representative Ryan Guillen serves ten rural South Texas counties in the Texas House of Representatives, including Atascosa, Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, La Salle, Live Oak, McMullen, Starr, and Willacy.

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