

By: Morrison

H.R. No. 76

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Matagorda County are gathering in
2 Austin on February 7, 2023, to celebrate Matagorda County Day at the
3 State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, One of the oldest counties in Texas, Matagorda
5 County derives its name from the Spanish word for "thick brush," in
6 reference to the canebrakes that once lined its shores along the
7 Gulf Coast; located between Galveston and Corpus Christi, 72 miles
8 southwest of Houston, the county offers residents easy access to a
9 large metropolitan city while providing the quiet lifestyle of a
10 rural South Texas community; and

11 WHEREAS, Noted for its abundant wildlife, Matagorda County is
12 thought to have more species of birds than anywhere else in the
13 country during certain times of the year; its diverse geography,
14 from marshes and coastal prairies to rivers and forests, affords
15 outstanding birding opportunities; the Matagorda County Birding
16 Nature Center is an ideal place to learn about birds, gardening,
17 wildlife, and native plants, and three Great Texas Coastal Birding
18 Trail loops encompass 17 observation sites; moreover, the county's
19 bays are filled with redfish, flounder, trout, crab, oysters, and
20 shrimp, and the Port of Palacios is one of the largest shrimping
21 ports in Texas, home to more than 125 shrimp boats; and

22 WHEREAS, Ranching, farming, and petroleum remain important
23 economic resources in Matagorda County, which further benefits from
24 the presence of the South Texas Project; moreover, the county is the

1 home of international companies TenarisBayCity, OQ Chemicals
2 Corporation, and LyondellBasell, and has recently welcomed HIF USA,
3 Air Liquide, and Röhm America LLC to the area; the county also
4 boasts several prospective residential developments, totaling over
5 800 housing starts, as well as many new retail outlets and
6 restaurants; and

7 WHEREAS, Bay City, the county seat of Matagorda County, has
8 been called the "Gateway to the Great Outdoors"; founded in 1894,
9 the city was named for its location in the center of a vast coastal
10 prairie, which has been known as "Bay Prairie" from the time of
11 Stephen F. Austin; although the city is 25 miles from the Gulf of
12 Mexico, a port was constructed in the 1960s to link it to the Gulf
13 Intracoastal Waterway via the Colorado River; and

14 WHEREAS, Matagorda County is blessed with a rich history and
15 abundant natural resources, and its residents may take great pride
16 in their county's legacy and bright future; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
18 Legislature hereby recognize February 7, 2023, as Matagorda County
19 Day at the State Capitol and extend a warm welcome to the visiting
20 delegation.