

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 624

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Port Aransas are gathering in Austin on
2 April 12, 2023, to celebrate Port Aransas Day at the State Capitol;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, In the early 1800s, Mustang Island was frequented by
5 the famed buccaneer Jean Lafitte, and in 1855, an English sheep and
6 cattle rancher named Robert A. Mercer built a cabin on the island; a
7 community developed around the site, and the first post office was
8 established in 1888; initially called Ropesville, the town was
9 renamed Tarpon eight years later to highlight the island's fine
10 fishing, and in 1911, it was officially designated as Port Aransas;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The city has since become one of the most popular
13 family destinations on the Texas Gulf Coast, and the superb beaches
14 draw campers, swimmers, and surfers from across the Lone Star
15 State; the town's launching ramps, lighted piers, and jetties
16 enable anglers to catch a wide variety of fish, including red
17 snapper, redfish, flounder, speckled trout, tuna, and more; and

18 WHEREAS, Port Aransas is one of the top bird-watching
19 locations in the country, and many areas afford fine opportunities
20 to view local species such as herons and roseate spoonbills as well
21 as the annual migrations of hummingbirds, flycatchers, orioles, and
22 whooping cranes; additionally, visitors may delight in the town's
23 art galleries, shops, restaurants, and locations of historical
24 interest; and

1 WHEREAS, Port Aransas boasts a thriving tourism industry,
2 which is an important economic engine for the state, generating
3 nearly \$18 million in city and state hotel taxes and more than \$15
4 million in related sales taxes in 2022; and

5 WHEREAS, The community is served by the Port Aransas
6 Independent School District, which has consistently earned an A
7 accountability rating from the Texas Education Agency, and it
8 further benefits from the educational opportunities provided by The
9 University of Texas Marine Science Institute, which supports
10 sustainability and research in fields vital to the future of the
11 Texas coast; and

12 WHEREAS, Blessed with natural beauty and a colorful history,
13 Port Aransas is one of the Lone Star State's great treasures, and
14 its citizens may indeed take pride in their rich heritage and
15 ongoing achievements; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
17 Legislature hereby recognize April 12, 2023, as Port Aransas Day at
18 the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere
19 best wishes for a meaningful and memorable stay in Austin.