

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Many proud residents of Matagorda County will be in
2 Austin on February 11, 2003, to celebrate Matagorda County Day at
3 the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Matagorda County's colorful history dates back to
5 the early days of Texas, when the rich, fertile land between the
6 Colorado and Brazos rivers was included in Moses Austin's original
7 land grant in 1820; after his death, Moses' son, Stephen F. Austin,
8 continued his father's plans of establishing a settlement in this
9 beautiful region along the Gulf Coast; and

10 WHEREAS, Blessed with fertile soil, ample rainfall, and a
11 mild climate, Matagorda County attracted hundreds of settlers eager
12 to tame this new frontier; the wide open prairies offered plenty of
13 land for farming and ranching, while the hardwood forests bordering
14 the region's waterways provided pioneer families with an abundant
15 supply of wood for building and for fuel; and

16 WHEREAS, Cotton and sugar quickly became the dominant crops,
17 but in later years the county expanded its agricultural economy to
18 include rice, corn, soy beans, milo, and other grains; and

19 WHEREAS, Settlers flocked to this thriving new community, and
20 Stephen F. Austin's vision of a prosperous and successful Texas
21 settlement became a reality; beginning in 1898, the railroad system
22 expanded throughout the region, bringing supplies and more settlers
23 to the Gulf Coast and spurring a dynamic period of growth and
24 development as enterprising individuals founded cities such as

1 Palacios, Blessing, Markham, Van Vleck, and Wadsworth along the new
2 rail lines; and

3 WHEREAS, Since that time, a diverse economy encompassing
4 petrochemicals, plastics, and oil and gas, as well as agriculture,
5 has sustained the growth of the county, which currently boasts a
6 population of more than 37,000; and

7 WHEREAS, Matagorda County offers numerous opportunities for
8 boating, sailing, fishing, and water skiing, and throughout the
9 year, visitors and residents alike are treated to a vast array of
10 festivals and celebrations; residents and civic organizations
11 deserve much praise for the success of the Matagorda County Rodeo,
12 the Christmas Parade of Lights, the Shrimporee and Blessing of the
13 Fleet, Bayfest, the Rice Festival, and Market Days; and

14 WHEREAS, The residents of Matagorda County take justifiable
15 pride in their community's heritage and can look to the future with
16 great anticipation; this unique county and its citizens have played
17 a significant role in Texas' development, and their many
18 contributions to the Lone Star State are truly deserving of a
19 special legislative salute; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
21 Legislature hereby recognize February 11, 2003, as Matagorda County
22 Day at the Capitol and extend to its citizens sincere best wishes
23 for an enjoyable visit to Austin.

Dawson

H.R. No. 179

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 179 was adopted by the House on
February 11, 2003, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House