

By: Dawson

H.R. No. 179

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.