

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 72

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the citizens of Port Arthur and surrounding communities on the joyous occasion of Port Arthur Day in Austin, which takes place February 2 through 4, 2003; and

WHEREAS, This event provides the citizens of Southeast Texas an opportunity to celebrate the amenities of their community and to take pride in their unique contributions to the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Founded in 1895 by Arthur E. Stilwell, a railroad promoter, Port Arthur became the second largest oil-refining site in the nation after the Spindletop gusher ushered in the great Southeast Texas oilfield boom; and

WHEREAS, Though situated in a famous oil refinery area, Port Arthur is also well known for its surrounding beauty; the McFaddin Wildlife Refuge, the Texas Point National Wildlife Refuge, and birding trails are located south of the city along Texas 87; and

WHEREAS, Snow geese, many species of ducks, and other waterfowl populate the enchanting marshes, providing excellent hunting; Sabine Lake and the nearby Gulf of Mexico provide for excellent freshwater and saltwater fishing, shrimping, and other industrial opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Local citizens and tourists enjoy Sea Rim State Park and the Sabine Pass Battleground State Historical Park, which marks the site of a Civil War battle in which a small number of Confederates forced a large Union fleet to retreat; and

WHEREAS, Known for its commitment to building a stronger economy, Port Arthur is home to Lamar State College-Port Arthur and was the first city in Texas to adopt the 12-grade public school system; and

WHEREAS, Southeast Texas residents are hardworking, generous, and hospitable, and they have successfully preserved the beauty and charm of their area; and

WHEREAS, The chambers of commerce in Southeast Texas have formed a coalition to include Jefferson County, along with the chambers in Port Arthur, Beaumont, Groves, Nederland, and Port Neches; and

WHEREAS, This coalition known as the Jefferson County Chambers of Commerce Legislative Response Team is hosting a Jefferson County Breakfast on February 4, 2003, at the Driskill Hotel; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby express appreciation to the citizens of Port Arthur and throughout Southeast Texas for their contributions to our state and extend best wishes to them for successful and rewarding Port Arthur Day events; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for them as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Janek

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 3, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate