

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 181

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join the citizens of Aransas County in proclaiming February 19, 2003, as Aransas County Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, The county was created from Refugio County in 1871 and named after Rio Nuestra Senora de Aranzazu, a name derived from a famous Spanish palace; and

WHEREAS, The county's prime location on the southern Coastal Plains and its diversified economy have ensured its prosperity; agribusiness, tourism, oil and gas production, and fish packing are the region's major industries; and

WHEREAS, Aransas County is home to the Fulton Mansion State Historic Structure, a three-story, Second Empire house built by rancher and businessman George W. Fulton, Sr.; the unusual house, which features innovative heating, ventilating, and food-preservation systems, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975; it is maintained as a museum by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; and

WHEREAS, The residents of Aransas County are proud of their rich history; Karankawa Indians once made their home in this verdant setting, and Spanish explorer Diego Ortiz Parrilla led an expedition along the area's Gulf Coast in 1766; since that time, countless others have been drawn to the region's abundant supply of natural and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, The community hosts many celebrations throughout the year, including Oyster Fest, Fiesta en la Playa, the Hummer/Bird Celebration, Seafair, the Fourth of July Fireworks and Art Festival, and the Children's Christmas Tree; and

WHEREAS, Goose Island State Park, Copano Bay State Fishing Pier, and Rockport Beach offer outdoor sports enthusiasts many recreational opportunities; in addition, bird-watchers and nature lovers take great delight in the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, the principal wintering ground of the endangered whooping crane; and

WHEREAS, Aransas County is a leading participant in our state's dynamic growth, while also maintaining its rich cultural traditions, and its citizens are rightfully proud of their county's contributions to our state; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby join our fellow citizens in saluting this fine Texas county; and, be it further

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RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the citizens of Aransas County as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Armbrister

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 19, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate