

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 369

WHEREAS, Many citizens of the Delta area in Hidalgo County are visiting Austin on March 10, 2003, to celebrate the significant role this historic locale has played in the development of the Lower Rio Grande Valley; and

WHEREAS, The Delta area was settled before 1800 by ranchers, who introduced cattle and sheep and a variety of crops; Spanish land grants in the vicinity included the Llano Grande, given to Juan José Ynojosa de Ballí in 1790, and a grant issued to Vicente de Ynojosa in 1797; some 50 or more years later, Miguel Fernández and Macedonio Vela operated their ranches, La Bota and Laguna Seca, in the area; and

WHEREAS, In the early 1900s, Anglo-Americans, lured by the bright prospects for developing truck farms, began making their homes in this district; at one time, the Delta area was home to some of the largest canning and packaging companies anywhere in the world; today, agriculture continues to constitute a major source of the county's economy, and Hidalgo County ranks first in the state in the market value of its crops; and

WHEREAS, Towns in the Delta area include Edcouch, Elsa, La Villa, and Monte Alto; Edcouch was named for local landowner and banker Edward Couch, while Elsa was named for Elsie George, wife of another local landowner, William George; on March 2, 2003, Elsa celebrated the 76th anniversary of its founding; and

WHEREAS, Deeply committed to their youth and to civic participation, area residents in 1997 created the Llano Grande Center for Research and Development; a nonprofit organization

based at Edcouch-Elsa High School, the center works to nurture the talents and leadership potential of local students and to strengthen the community fabric; among the many successes of which it can boast is a college preparation and placement program, which was informally established several years before the center's founding; it was largely due to this program that more than 51 area students were admitted to Ivy League universities between 1993 and 2001; and

WHEREAS, The residents of these proud Delta communities are drawing on the strengths of all their people as they work to preserve their rich heritage and build toward a future of ever-expanding opportunity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby declare March 10, 2003, as Delta Day at the State Capitol and extend sincere best wishes to all those here today for an enjoyable and memorable visit.

Lucio

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 17, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate