

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 416

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Karnes County and to proclaim March 24, 2003, Karnes County Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, In 1758, as part of a Royal Spanish Land Grant, the area now known as Karnes County became the site of the first ranch in Texas, and by 1776, a small Spanish Presidio had been established on the land; and

WHEREAS, The historic city of Panna Maria was settled in Karnes County by Polish families in the mid 1800s and is considered the oldest Polish Catholic colony in America; early settlers established the well-known Panna Maria Immaculate Conception Catholic Church there; and

WHEREAS, Karnes County is located on the rolling coastal plains halfway between Austin and Corpus Christi; and

WHEREAS, The county's fertile agricultural lands support grain, wild game and cattle production; an oil and gas industry, fiberglass manufacturing, and grain milling are also local enterprises; and

WHEREAS, Kenedy, the largest city in the county, is an economic center for the surrounding agricultural area; other major towns include Karnes City, the county seat, Falls City, and Runge; and

WHEREAS, Polish, German, Czech, and Mexican cultures have intermingled in the county and provide a unique heritage and environment that residents celebrate through annual festivities; and

WHEREAS, The people of Karnes County are proud to live in a progressive community with a rich Texas history; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the residents of this great county and wholeheartedly welcome the Karnes County delegation to the State Capitol; and, be it further

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

Zaffirini

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 24, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate