

By: Dawson

H.R. No. 184

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Matagorda County are gathering at the
2 State Capitol on February 8, 2005, to celebrate the role their
3 county has played in the history of our great state; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1820, Moses Austin received a land grant that
5 included the fertile land between the Colorado and Brazos Rivers;
6 his son, Stephen F. Austin, continued his father's plans of
7 establishing a settlement in this Gulf Coast prairie region; and

8 WHEREAS, After the Texas Revolution, in 1836, Matagorda
9 County was organized as one of the first 23 counties of the Republic
10 of Texas; the name "matagorda" is the Spanish word for thick brush,
11 and it is derived from the canebrakes that formerly lined the
12 county's shore; in the 19th century, the region's fertile soil,
13 ample rainfall, and mild climate attracted hundreds of settlers,
14 who maximized the land for farming and ranching, and the area's
15 forests provided pioneer families with an abundant supply of wood
16 for building and fuel; and

17 WHEREAS, Cotton and sugar quickly became the dominant crops,
18 but in later years, the county expanded its agricultural economy to
19 include rice, corn, soybeans, milo, and other grains; today, the
20 region is home to the South Texas Nuclear Power Project and boasts a
21 diverse economy of agriculture, petrochemicals, plastics, and oil
22 and gas; and

23 WHEREAS, Matagorda County is a desirable destination for
24 visitors who enjoy the benefits of nature and outdoor recreational

1 activities, such as boating, sailing, fishing, and water skiing;
2 birdwatching has become a particularly popular pastime as the
3 county has led all of North America in the prestigious Audubon
4 Christmas Bird Count and 246 species were observed in December 2004
5 alone; and

6 WHEREAS, The area also draws many visitors and residents
7 alike to the Matagorda County Rodeo, the Christmas Lighted Parade
8 and Tour of Homes, the Shrimporee and Blessing of the Fleet, Bayfest
9 in November, the Rice Festival in October, and an annual cattle
10 drive across the Colorado River to Matagorda Peninsula; in addition
11 to the county seat, Bay City, other towns in the region include
12 Palacios, Blessing, Cedar Lane, Collegeport, Elmaton, Markham,
13 Matagorda, Midfield, Pledger, Sargent, Van Vleck, and Wadsworth;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The residents of this fine Texas county have played
16 an important part in preserving their region's past and preparing
17 for a productive future, and it is a pleasure to pay tribute to
18 Matagorda County and its citizens on this special day; now,
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
21 Legislature hereby recognize February 8, 2005, as Matagorda County
22 Day at the State Capitol and extend to the delegation here today
23 sincere best wishes for an enjoyable visit.