

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 89**

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to pay tribute to Matagorda County for its many contributions to our state and to join its citizens in celebrating Matagorda County Day on February 8, 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, Situated along the Gulf of Mexico between Brazoria and Calhoun Counties, Matagorda County consists of more than 1,100 square miles, including Matagorda Bay, and its land is drained by the Colorado River, Caney Creek, and Tres Palacios Creek; and

**WHEREAS**, Often called "The Cradle of Texas History," Matagorda County was first settled by people brought in under the leadership of Stephen F. Austin; agriculture was the primary source of income, and the main crops were cotton and sugarcane; after the Civil War, cattle ranching became the chief source of income, since both the war and the boll weevil destroyed cotton crops; and

**WHEREAS**, Bay City was established in 1894 and became the county seat, and railroad development around 1898 played a major role in the growth of Matagorda County; and

**WHEREAS**, In the 2000 census, the total population of Matagorda County was approximately 38,000; the modern-day economy is based on agriculture, petrochemicals, nuclear power, plastics, oil and gas, and oilfield services; and

**WHEREAS**, The recreational attractions of this area are manifold; major parks and the Gulf of Mexico provide ample opportunities for fishing, shrimping, and bird-watching; one of the county's ports, Palacios, is known as the Shrimp Capital of Texas, and for the last six years, the county has been credited with having more species of birds than any other county in the United States; it is now home to the Matagorda County Birding and Nature Center; and

**WHEREAS**, Numerous civic organizations sponsor annual events each year, such as the Matagorda County Rodeo, the Blessing of the Fleet, the Fisherman's Festival, the Rice Festival, and Market Days; two museums and many historical sites add to the rich cultural heritage of the area; and

**WHEREAS**, The residents of Matagorda County are friendly and hospitable and have made their county one of the outstanding areas of the state; and

**WHEREAS**, It is indeed a pleasure and a privilege for the Texas Senate to honor this outstanding Texas county and its fine citizens; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby extend sincere congratulations to the

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citizens of Matagorda County on their special day and best wishes for a memorable and joyous celebration; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for Matagorda County as a memento of this occasion.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 8, 2005.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate