

By: Garcia

H.C.R. No. 170

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Maritime Museum is celebrating a proud
2 milestone in 2007 when it marks the 20th anniversary of its
3 designation as the official State Maritime Museum of Texas; and

4 WHEREAS, Situated next to the harbor in Rockport, the museum
5 was created to foster public interest in and understanding of the
6 rich maritime history of this state; that epic begins with the
7 Native Americans who made their home on the Texas coast and includes
8 the story of the French explorer La Salle, who established Fort St.
9 Louis near Lavaca Bay after missing his planned destination, the
10 Mississippi River; roughly a century and a half later, during the
11 Mexican War, Zachary Taylor launched several campaigns from the
12 Texas coast, and Palmito Creek, near Brownsville, witnessed the
13 last battle of the Civil War; during the 19th century, thousands of
14 settlers entered Texas by way of the coast, and today the Gulf
15 Intracoastal Waterway, whose Texas section stretches for 426 miles,
16 plays a major role in the economy of both Texas and the nation; and

17 WHEREAS, In fulfilling its mission, the Texas Maritime Museum
18 focuses on four broad areas: the exploration and settlement of the
19 Texas Gulf Coast; the history and development of Texas seaports,
20 maritime communities, and maritime commerce; the history of the
21 Texas seafood and fishing industry; and the history and technology
22 of offshore petroleum production and transportation; and

23 WHEREAS, Since opening its doors to the public on July 1,
24 1989, the museum has captured the interest of countless visitors

1 with its wide-ranging exhibits, interactive displays, and
2 educational programming; highlights include a permanent exhibit
3 related to one of the most important shipwreck excavations in North
4 America, that of La Salle's flagship the *Belle*, which sank in
5 Matagorda Bay in 1686; also featured are historic maritime
6 photographs and fishing equipment, a life-size re-creation of the
7 bridge of a merchant ship, and a survival capsule such as offshore
8 oil-rig personnel would use in case of an emergency; and

9 WHEREAS, The Texas Maritime Museum pursues an active
10 collecting program and currently houses more than 2,000 objects,
11 most of which are on display and all of which are catalogued in a
12 searchable computer database; in 2003, the museum opened a new
13 addition, which has increased its exhibit space and which also
14 serves as a functioning lighthouse; and

15 WHEREAS, This outstanding museum received accreditation from
16 the American Association of Museums in 2005, becoming the 38th
17 institution in Texas to be so recognized; and

18 WHEREAS, Through their efforts to preserve a heritage of
19 immeasurable importance to the Lone Star State, the directors,
20 staff, and volunteers of the Texas Maritime Museum are performing a
21 significant public service, and their exceptional achievements are
22 indeed to be commended; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
24 hereby honor the Texas Maritime Museum on the occasion of its 20th
25 anniversary as the official State Maritime Museum of Texas and
26 extend to all associated with that institution sincere best wishes
27 for continued success; and, be it further

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1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for the Texas Maritime Museum as an expression of high
3 regard by the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.