

By: Ortiz, Jr.

H.R. No. 713

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud citizens of South Texas are visiting Austin to  
2 celebrate Coastal Bend Day at the State Capitol on March 7, 2007;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, This dynamic and scenic region is home to four  
5 notable institutions of higher learning, including Texas A&M  
6 University-Corpus Christi, Texas A&M University-Kingsville,  
7 Coastal Bend College, and Del Mar College, and together they serve  
8 more than 29,000 students; and

9 WHEREAS, A&M-Corpus Christi has benefited recently from the  
10 creation of the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico  
11 Studies, which was founded with a \$46 million endowment from Edward  
12 H. Harte; at A&M-Kingsville, the Rangel College of Pharmacy, the  
13 first professional school in the state south of San Antonio, opened  
14 its doors in fall 2006 to its first 70 students; at Coastal Bend  
15 College, a nursing school is in the early planning stages; and

16 WHEREAS, The Coastal Bend region is a strategic deployment  
17 area for the United States military; the Naval Air Station in  
18 Kingsville is the Navy's largest advanced jet-training base, and  
19 the Naval Air Stations in Corpus Christi and Ingleside have helped  
20 to fuel the area's economy; moreover, Robstown is the site of a  
21 950,000-square-foot, humidity-controlled warehouse for the U.S.  
22 Army Reserve, one of only eight such facilities in the nation; and

23 WHEREAS, A popular destination for outdoor enthusiasts as  
24 well, the Coastal Bend is home to Mustang Island State Park and

1 Padre Island National Seashore, where a beach stretching 68 miles  
2 constitutes the longest undeveloped shoreline in the nation; in  
3 addition, the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge draws some 75,000  
4 visitors a year; and

5 WHEREAS, Known to many as the "Sparkling City by the Sea,"  
6 Corpus Christi is the sixth largest port in the nation; it is slated  
7 to play an even more prominent role in international trade with the  
8 development of La Quinta Gateway Terminal Project, a proposed  
9 1,100-acre facility in San Patricio County; and

10 WHEREAS, Already a center for oil refining, food processing,  
11 fishing, and tourism, Nueces County has in recent years diversified  
12 its workforce, leading to enhancements in the areas of tourism,  
13 health care, and education; Robstown boasts a newly completed, \$32  
14 million regional fairground and the city is the future home of the  
15 Inland Port of the Americas, a trade processing center for  
16 containers, agricultural products, and other goods; and

17 WHEREAS, Aransas County is also raising its profile as a site  
18 for tourism and education; currently under construction is a  
19 19,000-square-foot visitors center on the harbor that will include  
20 an expansive deck for strolling near the water, and the Texas  
21 Maritime Museum in Rockport draws more than 1,000 visitors a month;  
22 with an eye to the future, communities in the county are working  
23 together to increase educational opportunities for area residents  
24 through the establishment of the Technical College Foundation; and

25 WHEREAS, Traditionally a region of ranching and farming, Bee  
26 County is also home to the 1,500-acre Chase Field Industrial  
27 Complex, which services Black Hawk helicopters for the military,

1 bringing the county an estimated \$117 million in five years; and

2 WHEREAS, Jim Wells County is largely a rural county and has a  
3 significant economic segment devoted to oil production, with major  
4 companies such as Halliburton and Weatherford US located there; the  
5 county has increasingly gained importance in the trading industry  
6 and in the health and science fields with the recent development of  
7 a \$15 million preclinical pharmaceutical research facility managed  
8 by Covance Research Products; and

9 WHEREAS, Kleberg County has been diversifying from its  
10 original economy based on agriculture and the petrochemical  
11 industry to an economy based on natural resources, geographical  
12 location, and research and development opportunities provided by  
13 the university in Kingsville; its renowned King Ranch continues to  
14 bring modern cattle breeding and range management to new levels of  
15 excellence in American ranching; the county also benefits from the  
16 presence of such major corporations as Rolls Royce, L3.com, Boeing,  
17 and Lockheed Martin; and

18 WHEREAS, San Patricio County provides deepwater port  
19 facilities, access to intercoastal traffic, and Union Pacific rail  
20 service; Interstate Highway 37, U.S. Highway 77, and State Highway  
21 181 link the county as well to the Rio Grande Valley and to northern  
22 markets; and

23 WHEREAS, Calhoun County is rich in history, natural  
24 resources, and cultural and ethnic diversity; its extensive system  
25 of bays and waterways is ideal for fishing, and the county offers  
26 several public piers and access to the Gulf of Mexico at Port  
27 O'Connor; Indianola was once an entry port for immigrants until the

1 late 19th century and is now a ghost town with a historic cemetery;  
2 the county also draws lighthouse enthusiasts who visit its Half  
3 Moon Reef and Matagorda Island Lighthouses; and

4 WHEREAS, Replete with tradition, attractive landscapes, and  
5 cultural treasures, the Coastal Bend region of the Lone Star State  
6 serves as a thriving center for industry, agriculture, trade, and  
7 tourism; its unique history is outdone only by the potential of its  
8 bright future; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
10 Legislature hereby recognize March 7, 2007, as Coastal Bend Day at  
11 the State Capitol and extend to the visitors from the region best  
12 wishes for a rewarding and entertaining stay in Austin.