

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 409**

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the citizens of Matagorda County who are visiting the Capitol on March 13, 2007, in celebration of Matagorda County Day at the Capitol; and

**WHEREAS**, One of the oldest counties in Texas, Matagorda County is located between Galveston and Corpus Christi along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico; the county is 72 miles southwest of Houston, affording residents proximity to a large metropolitan city in addition to the quiet lifestyle of a rural South Texas community; the county is a destination for many northern neighbors who winter along the Texas coast; and

**WHEREAS**, Noted for its abundant wildlife, Matagorda County has more species of birds than any other county in the United States; the county's bays are filled with redfish, flounder, trout, crab, and shrimp; the Port of Palacios is home to more than 400 shrimp boats and handles more commercial shrimp than any other Texas port; and

**WHEREAS**, Visitors and residents of the county enjoy a rich blend of environments--from marshes to coastal prairies, rivers, and forests; birding has taken Bay City and Matagorda County by storm; the Matagorda County Birding Nature Center offers opportunities for both the novice and experienced naturalist; guides are available for trips and adventures, hunting, fishing, and nature excursions; and

**WHEREAS**, Founded in 1894, Bay City is the county seat of Matagorda County; it was named Bay City because of its location in the center of a vast coastal prairie known from the time of Stephen F. Austin as "Bay Prairie"; Bay City is 25 miles from the Gulf of Mexico but is still a port town that is connected to the Intercoastal Waterway by the Colorado River; and

**WHEREAS**, Matagorda County received its name from the Spanish word for "thick brush"; the county was so named due to the canebrakes that formerly lined the coastal shore; its county seat, Bay City, is known as "the gateway to the great outdoors"; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to Matagorda County for its many assets and extend best wishes to its citizens on the occasion of Matagorda County Day at the Capitol; and, be it further

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**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of Matagorda County.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 6, 2007.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate