

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 15

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, On July 1, 2009, the Texas Maritime Museum in  
2 Rockport is marking the 20th anniversary of its opening, and this  
3 occasion offers a welcome opportunity to pay tribute to this  
4 popular and respected institution; and

5           WHEREAS, After being designated as the official State  
6 Maritime Museum in 1987, TMM admitted its first visitors on July 1,  
7 1989; from that day forward, it has done an exceptional job of  
8 fulfilling its mission of creating greater awareness and  
9 understanding of the prominent role that seagoing exploration and  
10 commerce has played in the saga of the Lone Star State; and

11           WHEREAS, The museum has been especially active in showcasing  
12 the early exploration and settlement of the Gulf Coast, including  
13 the experiences of the expedition led by French explorer Rene  
14 Robert La Salle that arrived on Matagorda Island in the 1680s; TMM  
15 is one of the museums participating in the La Salle Odyssey project,  
16 and its exhibit includes a scale replica of the *Belle*, La Salle's  
17 ship that sank in Matagorda Bay in 1686 and was excavated in the  
18 late 1990s; and

19           WHEREAS, Other central themes presented by the museum include  
20 the history and development of seaports and maritime commerce along  
21 the coast, an overview of the Texas seafood and fishing industry,  
22 and the history of offshore petroleum production and  
23 transportation; these topics have been brought to life by numerous  
24 imaginative exhibits, and the museum's outstanding work has

1 resulted in it being fully accredited by the American Association  
2 of Museums, a standard of achievement that has been met by less  
3 than 10 percent of the museums in the nation; and

4 WHEREAS, Through the years, TMM has added to its facilities  
5 and offerings with enhancements that have included a lighthouse  
6 addition and the creation of the Perry R. Bass Memorial Sports  
7 Fishing Wall of Fame; moreover, a new Maritime Collections and  
8 Education Center is presently under construction and will soon  
9 provide additional opportunities for visitors; and

10 WHEREAS, The Texas Maritime Museum has spent two decades  
11 illuminating important and enthralling elements of our state's  
12 historic and ongoing relationship with the sea, and its admirable  
13 work will continue to be a valuable resource in the years to come;  
14 now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
16 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commemorate the 20th  
17 anniversary of the opening of the Texas Maritime Museum and extend  
18 to the institution's directors, staff, and volunteers sincere best  
19 wishes for continued success.