

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 435

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud citizens of Aransas County are gathering at  
2 the State Capitol in Austin to celebrate Aransas County Day on  
3 February 26, 2009; and

4 WHEREAS, First inhabited nearly 8,000 years ago, Spanish  
5 explorers visited the area as early as the 1500s, and a Spanish  
6 customhouse was established on Copano Bay in the 1780s; during the  
7 Civil War, the area was the site of several battles between Union  
8 and Confederate forces; and

9 WHEREAS, The towns of Fulton and Rockport were founded in the  
10 years after the war and soon became important packing and shipping  
11 centers for local cattle ranches; Aransas County was formed from  
12 Refugio County in 1872, with Rockport as the county seat; during the  
13 20th century, commercial fishing and shrimping became mainstays of  
14 the area economy; and

15 WHEREAS, Today, tourism has become vital to the region's  
16 prosperity; the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and the county's bays  
17 and inlets provide fine opportunities for boating and eco-tours; in  
18 addition, there is excellent fishing from the Copano Bay State  
19 Fishing Pier and the jetty in the Rockport Yacht Basin as well as on  
20 fishing excursions aboard group and charter boats; and

21 WHEREAS, The winter destination of the world's only flock of  
22 migrating whooping cranes, Aransas National Wildlife Refuge is also  
23 home to 400 species of birds and such animals as alligators,  
24 javelina, and white-tailed deer; Goose Island State Park and Connie

1 Hagar Cottage Sanctuary are also prime locations for viewing birds  
2 and other wildlife; and

3 WHEREAS, The rich nautical history of Texas is the focus of  
4 the Texas Maritime Museum in Rockport, which is the state's  
5 official maritime museum; visitors to Rockport can also get a  
6 first-hand look at a fully restored 19th-century mansion at the  
7 Fulton Mansion State Historic Site; and

8 WHEREAS, Rockport has been cited as one of the top 10 art  
9 colonies in the United States by *Coastal Living* magazine, and the  
10 county is home to more than 300 artists, 15 art galleries, and the  
11 Rockport Center for the Arts; the Rockport Art Festival in July is  
12 one of the largest juried festivals in the nation; and

13 WHEREAS, Aransas County is blessed with natural wonders, a  
14 vibrant cultural scene, and a colorful history, and its residents  
15 may take great pride in their heritage and ongoing achievements;  
16 now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
18 Legislature hereby recognize February 26, 2009, as Aransas County  
19 Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation  
20 sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable visit to Austin.