

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Aransas County are gathering in  
2 Austin to celebrate Aransas County Day at the State Capitol on  
3 February 17, 2011; and

4 WHEREAS, This region of coastal prairie, marshlands, and  
5 sandy beaches was first inhabited by native peoples 8,000 years  
6 ago, and early European visitors to the area included the famed  
7 shipwreck survivor Cabeza de Vaca and the explorers Alonso De Leon  
8 and Diego Ortiz Parrilla; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1828, the Mexican government awarded an  
10 empresario grant to James Power and James Hewetson to enable them to  
11 bring in settlers from Ireland and Mexico, and not long after the  
12 Civil War, the towns of Fulton and Rockport were founded as ports  
13 for the cattle business; Aransas County was formed in 1871 and named  
14 after Rio Nuestra Senora de Aranzazu, a Spanish palace; and

15 WHEREAS, Today, the county's ample recreational  
16 opportunities draw visitors from around the state and nation; the  
17 variety of wildlife found in Aransas National Wildlife Refuge  
18 includes the whooping crane, javelina, alligators, and  
19 white-tailed deer, and the Bird Garden and Wetlands Pond in  
20 Rockport and the Connie Hagar Cottage Sanctuary help preserve a  
21 variety of fascinating flora and fauna; and

22 WHEREAS, Rockport Harbor is the home port of many popular  
23 boating excursions for birders, dolphin-watchers, and devotees of  
24 deep-sea fishing, while the Fulton Harbor Pier and Copano Bay State

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1 Fishing Pier offer first-rate opportunities for angling; fresh  
2 seafood is available year-round in the area's fine restaurants; and

3 WHEREAS, The county's history is evoked by the fully restored  
4 19th century mansion at the Fulton Mansion State Historic Site,  
5 while the Texas Maritime Museum in Rockport celebrates the marine  
6 heritage of the Lone Star State; the Rockport Center for the Arts is  
7 a hub for the region's thriving cultural scene, which includes such  
8 festive annual events as the Bountiful Bowl Pottery Fair, the  
9 Fulton Oysterfest, the Rockport Film Festival, and many others; and

10 WHEREAS, Blessed with great natural beauty, a rich history,  
11 and a vibrant creative community, Aransas County is one of the  
12 treasures of the Lone Star State, and its citizens may indeed take  
13 great pride in their heritage as they look forward to a future  
14 filled with opportunity; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
16 Legislature hereby recognize February 17, 2011, as Aransas County  
17 Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation  
18 sincere best wishes for a memorable and meaningful visit to Austin.

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 136 was adopted by the House on  
February 17, 2011, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House