

By: Weber

H.R. No. 554

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Public-spirited citizens of Matagorda County are
2 gathering in Austin to celebrate Matagorda County Day at the State
3 Capitol on February 23, 2011; and

4 WHEREAS, Taking its name from the Spanish phrase meaning
5 "thick brush," this region of prairie, salt marshes, and coastal
6 waterways was visited by the French explorer La Salle in 1685; the
7 area constituted part of Stephen F. Austin's first colony, and
8 settlers began arriving through Matagorda Bay during the winter of
9 1821-1822; in 1829, the town of Matagorda was established as a
10 military post, and in 1836, Matagorda County became one of the
11 original 23 counties of the Republic of Texas; and

12 WHEREAS, Matagorda ranked as the second-largest seaport in
13 Texas for a time and served as a shipping point for cotton, sugar,
14 and livestock raised in the county; when the boll weevil endangered
15 the cotton crop in the early 20th century, farmers began to grow
16 rice, and the discovery of oil and sulfur further diversified the
17 county's economy; and

18 WHEREAS, Ranching, farming, and petroleum remain important,
19 and the county also benefits from the presence of the South Texas
20 Project nuclear plant, which generates enough electricity to power
21 approximately two million homes in Texas; Bay City, the county
22 seat, is a center of the petrochemical industry, while the port at
23 Palacios is home to the largest fishing fleet on the Texas Gulf
24 Coast; and

1 WHEREAS, Visitors and residents alike enjoy the county's fine
2 beaches and its many opportunities for fishing and water sports,
3 while birders from across the nation are drawn to the Mad Island
4 Marsh and Wildlife Management Area; Bay City is the location of
5 several major annual attractions--the annual county fair,
6 livestock show, and rodeo, which take place in the early spring, and
7 the Rice Festival, which is held in the fall; in between those
8 dates, Palacios hosts the Texas Fishermen's Seafood Festival, in
9 December, and a reenactment of La Salle's landing, every Fourth of
10 July; and

11 WHEREAS, Matagorda County is an area of abundant natural
12 resources and rich history, and its residents may take great pride
13 in their notable heritage as they look forward to a future filled
14 with promise; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
16 Legislature hereby recognize February 23, 2011, as Matagorda County
17 Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation
18 sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable visit to Austin.