

By: Weber

H.R. No. 556

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud citizens of Brazoria County are gathering in
2 Austin to celebrate Brazoria County Day at the State Capitol on
3 March 8, 2011; and

4 WHEREAS, This section of coastal prairie along the Brazos
5 River was inhabited during the first three centuries of Texas'
6 recorded history by the nomadic Karankawa Indians; the Spanish
7 explorer Cabeza de Vaca passed through the region as early as 1528,
8 and the pirate Jean Lafitte was rumored to have used the mouth of
9 the Brazos as a refuge; and

10 WHEREAS, The region was settled in the 1820s by members of
11 Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred; Henry Smith of Brazoria
12 served as the first American-born governor of the Mexican territory
13 of Texas and as a leader of the movement for independence, and the
14 town of Columbia served as the capital of Texas during the first
15 Texas Congress; in 1836, Brazoria County became one of the original
16 counties established by the new republic; and

17 WHEREAS, Farming and ranching initially constituted the
18 mainstays of the county's economy; the discovery of oil and sulfur
19 deposits in the early 20th century helped the region grow, and
20 chemical processing became increasingly important during World War
21 II and after; commercial fishing and the recreation industry have
22 helped to ensure continuing economic development; and

23 WHEREAS, Today, the eight cities of the Brazosport
24 area--Clute, Freeport, Jones Creek, Lake Jackson, Oyster Creek,

1 Quintana, Richwood, and Surfside Beach--boast excellent schools
2 and affordable housing; visitors and residents alike take great
3 pleasure in miles of sandy beaches, bay and offshore fishing, scuba
4 diving, and outstanding bird-watching at the Brazoria and San
5 Bernard National Wildlife Refuges; and

6 WHEREAS, Angleton, the county seat, abounds with antique
7 shops and scenic parks and hosts the county fair, one of the largest
8 in Texas, every October and Christmas on the Square in December; the
9 town of Alvin is home to the Nolan Ryan Center, which celebrates the
10 career of its native son and Baseball Hall of Famer; moreover, the
11 nearby town of Pearland is a center for the chemical and oil
12 industries; and

13 WHEREAS, The educational opportunities available to students
14 at Alvin Community College and Brazosport College further
15 contribute to the county's many amenities; and

16 WHEREAS, Even as they celebrate their rich heritage, the
17 hardworking citizens of Brazoria County are looking ahead to the
18 opportunities of the future and continuing to contribute greatly to
19 the growth and prosperity of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be
20 it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
22 Legislature hereby recognize March 8, 2011, as Brazoria County Day
23 at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best
24 wishes for a memorable and meaningful stay in Austin.