

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 229

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Port Aransas are gathering in  
2 Austin to celebrate Port Aransas Day at the State Capitol on March  
3 5, 2013; and

4 WHEREAS, The town's location on Mustang Island was first  
5 inhabited by the Karankawa Indians, and in the early 1800s, it was  
6 frequented by the famed buccaneer Jean Lafitte; the natural passage  
7 between the island and St. Joseph Island was originally named  
8 Aranzazu and later became known as Aransas Pass; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1855, an English sheep and cattle rancher named  
10 Robert A. Mercer built a cabin on Mustang Island at the site that  
11 later became the town; Elihu Harrison Ropes started a project to dig  
12 a channel across the island in 1890, and the community that grew  
13 around the new post office was called Ropesville; in 1896, it was  
14 renamed Tarpon to highlight the island's fine fishing, and in 1911,  
15 the town was officially designated as Port Aransas; and

16 WHEREAS, Since World War II, the city has become one of the  
17 most popular resort destinations on the Texas Gulf Coast; the  
18 superb beaches of nearby Mustang Island State Park draw campers,  
19 swimmers, and surfers from across the Lone Star State, and the  
20 town's launching ramps and four lighted piers enable anglers to  
21 catch a wide diversity of fish, including red snapper, shark, sand  
22 trout, tuna, and bonito; and

23 WHEREAS, Port Aransas is also one of the top bird-watching  
24 destinations in the nation, and the Leonabelle Turnbull Birding

1 Center, the Port Aransas Wetlands Habitat Park, and other nature  
2 centers afford fine opportunities to view local species such as  
3 herons and roseate spoonbills as well as the annual migrations of  
4 hummingbirds, flycatchers, and orioles; and

5 WHEREAS, The rich variety of sea life that resides along the  
6 Gulf Coast can be appreciated at the aquariums at The University of  
7 Texas Marine Science Institute; visitors also delight in the town's  
8 many fine art galleries, shops, seafood restaurants, and hotels,  
9 including the historic Tarpon Inn, which has hosted such famous  
10 visitors as President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and movie star Hedy  
11 Lamarr; and

12 WHEREAS, Blessed with natural beauty and a colorful history,  
13 Port Aransas is one of the jewels of the Lone Star State, and its  
14 citizens may indeed take great pride in their heritage and ongoing  
15 achievements; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
17 Legislature hereby recognize March 5, 2013, as Port Aransas Day at  
18 the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere  
19 best wishes for a meaningful and memorable visit to Austin.