

By: Raymond

H.R. No. 255

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud citizens of Laredo are gathering in Austin to
2 celebrate Laredo Day at the State Capitol on January 30, 2013; and

3 WHEREAS, Originally known as San Agustin de Laredo, the city
4 was founded in 1755 as an outpost of the Spanish empire; it later
5 belonged to Mexico, after that country gained independence from
6 Spain in 1821, and served as the capital of the short-lived Republic
7 of the Rio Grande; Laredo became part of Texas in 1846 and was
8 subsequently chosen as the seat of Webb County; and

9 WHEREAS, From its earliest days, Laredo was an important
10 crossing on the Rio Grande and a trading center for livestock,
11 hides, and wool; its role in international trade expanded with the
12 arrival of the railroad in 1881 and with the development of the Zona
13 Libre, or free trade zone, along the border between the United
14 States and Mexico; its economy was further helped by coal mining,
15 the introduction of onion farming, and the discovery of rich oil and
16 gas fields; and

17 WHEREAS, Today, this bustling gateway city is the largest
18 inland port along the Rio Grande and one of the top six U.S. Customs
19 districts in the nation, and its diverse economy benefits from the
20 retail, hospitality, import and export, and petroleum industries;
21 the city handles 40 percent of all trade between the United States
22 and Mexico; Laredo is also a focus for higher education in the Rio
23 Grande Valley, as the home to Texas A&M International University,
24 two campuses of Laredo Community College, and an extension campus

1 of The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio; and

2 WHEREAS, Visitors and residents alike may explore such area
3 attractions as the historic San Agustin Cathedral, the Republic of
4 the Rio Grande Museum, and the Laredo Center for the Arts, while 40
5 blocks of import vendors along San Bernardo Avenue draw shoppers
6 from near and far; in addition, Laredo is home to Washington's
7 Birthday Celebration, a 116-year-old, month-long event that
8 includes a carnival, a colonial pageant, a jalapeno festival, and a
9 parade; and

10 WHEREAS, Heirs to a rich history and a vibrant international
11 culture, the citizens of Laredo may indeed take great pride in their
12 city's two and a half centuries of progress and achievement; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
15 Legislature hereby recognize January 30, 2013, as Laredo Day at the
16 State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best
17 wishes for a memorable and meaningful visit to Austin.