

By: Thompson of Brazoria

H.R. No. 948

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 19, 2013; 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; the town of Alvin is home to the Nolan Ryan  
9 Center, which celebrates the career of its native son and Baseball  
10 Hall of Famer; moreover, the nearby town of Pearland is a center for  
11 the chemical and oil industries; and

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

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

20         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
21 Legislature hereby recognize March 19, 2013, as Brazoria County Day  
22 at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best  
23 wishes for a memorable and meaningful stay in Austin.