

By: Lozano

H.R. No. 129

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Business and community leaders from San Patricio
2 County are gathering in Austin on February 12, 2015, to celebrate
3 San Patricio County Day at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Situated upon the broad coastal plain along the Gulf
5 of Mexico, this region was originally inhabited by the Karankawa
6 Indians; less than 30 years after Columbus discovered America, a
7 European explorer sailed into the bay behind Aransas Pass, and over
8 the next 200 years the territory was visited by Spanish and French
9 explorers and Mexican sheepherders; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1829, 200 Irish families from New York formed a
11 colony under a contract with the government of Mexico and founded
12 the town of San Patricio de Hibernia, after Saint Patrick, the
13 patron saint of Ireland; the town was the site of a battle during
14 the Texas Revolution in 1836, and later that same year, San Patricio
15 County was created by the new Republic of Texas; and

16 WHEREAS, By 1860, San Patricio County was occupied by
17 ranchers and farmers, and during the Civil War, a Confederate fort
18 was placed at Aransas Pass to deal with smugglers, rustlers, and
19 Federal raiders; the county's economy was boosted in 1885 when the
20 San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway was extended to Aransas
21 Harbor; the town of Sinton, named after an Ohio banker who had
22 invested in the area's development, was named county seat in 1893;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Oil and gas were discovered in the county in the

1 early 20th century, and the petroleum industry and agriculture
2 continue to be the foundation of the economy; cotton, sorghum, and
3 cattle are all major products, along with shrimp from the
4 commercial fisheries along the coast; the deepwater port at Aransas
5 Pass is easily accessible to northern markets by rail, highway, and
6 the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway; and

7 WHEREAS, Today, the residents of San Patricio County enjoy a
8 relaxed rural lifestyle while taking advantage of their proximity
9 to the urban amenities of Corpus Christi; hunters, birders,
10 kayakers, snorkelers, and devotees of sport fishing travel to the
11 county for its many opportunities for recreation; the county is
12 also home to the Welder Wildlife Refuge, one of the largest
13 privately endowed refuges in the world; and

14 WHEREAS, Celebrating their colorful past even as they work to
15 build a bright future, the residents of San Patricio County may
16 indeed take great pride in this distinctive part of the Lone Star
17 State; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
19 Legislature hereby recognize February 12, 2015, as San Patricio
20 County Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting
21 delegation sincere best wishes for a meaningful and memorable visit
22 to Austin.