

By: Raymond

H.R. No. 191

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 27, 2015; 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 U.S.-Mexico border and one of the top U.S.  
19 Customs districts in the nation, and its diverse economy benefits  
20 from the retail, hospitality, import and export, and petroleum  
21 industries; the city handles more than a third of all trade between  
22 the United States and Mexico; Laredo is also a focus for higher  
23 education in the Rio Grande Valley, as the home to Texas A&M  
24 International University, two campuses of Laredo Community

1 College, and an extension campus of The University of Texas Health  
2 Science Center at San Antonio; and

3 WHEREAS, Visitors and residents alike may explore such area  
4 attractions as the historic San Agustin Cathedral, the Republic of  
5 the Rio Grande Museum, and the Laredo Center for the Arts, while 40  
6 blocks of import vendors along San Bernardo Avenue draw shoppers  
7 from near and far; in addition, Laredo is home to Washington's  
8 Birthday Celebration, a 118-year-old, month-long event that  
9 includes a carnival, a colonial pageant, a jalapeno festival, and a  
10 parade; and

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

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
16 Legislature hereby recognize January 27, 2015, as Laredo Day at the  
17 State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best  
18 wishes for a memorable and meaningful visit to Austin.