

By: Herrero

H.R. No. 354

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi is an
2 outstanding institution that is committed to connecting people with
3 nature and promoting conservation of the Gulf of Mexico; and

4 WHEREAS, After two decades of planning and fund-raising, TSA
5 first opened the doors to its original Gulf of Mexico exhibit in
6 1990; over the years, many new permanent and special exhibits have
7 been introduced, allowing spectators to see a live bald eagle, to
8 touch and feed stingrays, to watch Atlantic bottlenose dolphins
9 play, and to get an underwater view of the habitat formed around an
10 oil platform in the Gulf; the aquarium also features a splash park,
11 an artificial fossil dig site for uncovering casts of prehistoric
12 animal bones, and the Hawn Wild Flight Theater, with presentations
13 featuring trained birds, and in 2014, it announced an expansion
14 project that will more than double the size of the facilities; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition to entertaining and delighting
16 visitors, this private, not-for-profit institution gives back to
17 the community through its education and conservation programs;
18 field trips, summer camps, and distance learning empower Texans of
19 all ages to discover more about nature and marine wildlife, while
20 the Second Chances Wildlife Rehabilitation Program provides care
21 for ill or injured shorebirds, birds of prey, marine mammals, and
22 sea turtles, returning them to their natural habitats whenever
23 possible; furthermore, the aquarium coordinates beach cleanups
24 three times a year, fosters awareness of Texas watersheds with its

1 Keepers of the Coast program, and awards grants through its
2 Wildlife Care, Conservation, and Research Fund; and

3 WHEREAS, TSA has been honored with numerous accolades,
4 including the Outstanding Public-Private Partnership Award from
5 Mutual of America, the Munson Aquatic Conservation Exhibitory Award
6 from the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, and the
7 Conservation and Environmental Stewardship Award for Public
8 Awareness from the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation; in 2014, it became
9 one of only six aquariums in the nation to earn a prestigious
10 four-star rating from Charity Navigator; and

11 WHEREAS, By encouraging Texans to appreciate the diversity
12 and vulnerability of marine life, the aquarium is making a
13 significant contribution to the Lone Star State, and the efforts
14 and achievements of all involved in this worthy endeavor indeed
15 merit special commendation; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
17 Legislature hereby recognize February 10, 2015, as Texas State
18 Aquarium Day and extend to all those associated with the aquarium
19 sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for the Texas State Aquarium as an expression of high
22 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.