

By: Oliveira

H.R. No. 646

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Community leaders from Port Isabel are gathering in
2 Austin to celebrate Port Isabel Day at the State Capitol on March 3,
3 2015; and

4 WHEREAS, Originally inhabited by the Coahuiltecan Indians,
5 the land was settled in the late 18th century by Spanish colonists
6 who fished the Laguna Madre; in the 1820s, the village, then called
7 El Fronton, was claimed by Rafael Garcia as part of the Potrero de
8 Santa Isabel tract, and it later became known as Point Isabel in
9 1850; and

10 WHEREAS, Through the decades, the port served as a crucial
11 military outpost, first for Mexican soldiers and later for the
12 U.S. Army; in 1853, the town erected the Port Isabel Lighthouse,
13 which was used as a lookout during the Cortina War as well as the
14 Civil War, when it was the site of two battles and was occupied by
15 both Union and Confederate soldiers; and

16 WHEREAS, The town was incorporated as Port Isabel on March
17 23, 1928, and in the ensuing years, it became an important center
18 for processing shrimp and other seafood; in 1934, the city was
19 selected as the host of the first annual Texas International
20 Fishing Tournament, which continues to this day as the oldest
21 angling competition in Texas; and

22 WHEREAS, The construction of the Queen Isabella Causeway,
23 which connects Port Isabel to nearby South Padre Island, was
24 completed in 1954, making the town an even more popular tourist

1 destination; today, its bayside setting offers visitors scenic
2 beauty and a number of exceptional attractions, including fishing
3 piers, museums, shops, seafood restaurants, and hotels as well as
4 the annual Shrimp Fiesta; and

5 WHEREAS, The residents of Port Isabel are justifiably proud
6 of their city's heritage even as they continue to build upon the
7 many qualities that make their community a great place in which to
8 live, play, and work; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
10 Legislature hereby recognize March 3, 2015, as Port Isabel Day at
11 the State Capitol and extend best wishes to the visiting delegation
12 for an enjoyable visit to the seat of Texas government.