

By: Bonnen of Brazoria

H.R. No. 695

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 3, 2015; 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 24 cities of Brazoria County boast  
24 excellent schools and affordable housing; visitors and residents

1 alike take great pleasure in miles of sandy beaches, bay and  
2 offshore fishing, scuba diving, outstanding bird-watching, and the  
3 Brazoria and San Bernard National Wildlife Refuges; the county is  
4 also home to many antique shops and scenic parks, one of the largest  
5 county fairs in Texas, and the Nolan Ryan Center; and

6 WHEREAS, The educational opportunities available to students  
7 at Alvin Community College, Brazosport College, and the University  
8 of Houston-Clear Lake Pearland Campus further contribute to the  
9 county's many amenities; and

10 WHEREAS, The largest chemical complex in North America, the  
11 Texas Gulf Coast Regional Airport, and a flourishing health care  
12 industry are among the major contributors to economic growth in the  
13 county, and Port Freeport, ranked 24th in the United States in  
14 foreign tonnage, is one of the fastest growing ports on the Gulf  
15 Coast; and

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

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
22 Legislature hereby recognize March 3, 2015, as Brazoria County Day  
23 at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best  
24 wishes for a memorable and meaningful stay in Austin.