

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Proud residents of Port Aransas are gathering in  
2 Austin to celebrate Port Aransas Day at the State Capitol on March  
3 24, 2015; and

4           WHEREAS, The town's location on Mustang Island was first  
5 inhabited by the Karankawa Indians, and in the early 1800s, it was  
6 frequented by the famed buccaneer Jean Lafitte; the natural passage  
7 between the island and St. Joseph Island was originally named  
8 Aranzazu, and it became known as Aransas Pass; and

9           WHEREAS, In 1855, an English sheep and cattle rancher named  
10 Robert A. Mercer built a cabin on Mustang Island at the site that  
11 later became the town; Elihu Harrison Ropes started a project to dig  
12 a channel across the island in 1890, and the community that grew  
13 around the new post office was called Ropesville; in 1896, it was  
14 renamed Tarpon to highlight the island's fine fishing, and in 1911,  
15 the town was officially designated as Port Aransas; and

16           WHEREAS, Since World War II, the city has become one of the  
17 most popular resort destinations on the Texas Gulf Coast; the  
18 superb beaches draw campers, swimmers, and surfers from across the  
19 Lone Star State, and the town's launching ramps, lighted piers, and  
20 jetties enable anglers to catch a wide diversity of fish, including  
21 red snapper, shark, sand trout, tuna, and bonito; and

22           WHEREAS, Port Aransas is also one of the top bird-watching  
23 destinations in the nation, and many preserved venues afford fine  
24 opportunities to view local species such as herons and roseate

1 spoonbills as well as the annual migrations of hummingbirds,  
2 flycatchers, and orioles; and

3         WHEREAS, The rich variety of sea life found along the Gulf  
4 Coast can be appreciated at The University of Texas Marine Science  
5 Institute; visitors also delight in the town's many fine art  
6 galleries, shops, seafood restaurants, and lodging accommodations,  
7 including the historic Tarpon Inn, which displays tarpon scales  
8 signed by such famous visitors as President Franklin Delano  
9 Roosevelt and movie star Hedy Lamarr; and

10         WHEREAS, Blessed with natural beauty and a colorful history,  
11 Port Aransas is one of the jewels of the Lone Star State, and its  
12 citizens may indeed take great pride in their heritage and ongoing  
13 achievements; now, therefore, be it

14         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
15 Legislature hereby recognize March 24, 2015, as Port Aransas Day at  
16 the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere  
17 best wishes for an enjoyable and informative visit to Austin.

Hunter

H.R. No. 1247

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1247 was adopted by the House on March 24, 2015, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House