

By: Raymond

H.R. No. 46

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Laredo are gathering in Austin to  
2 celebrate Laredo Day at the State Capitol on January 25, 2017; 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 nearly two decades later it was named the capital  
7 of the short-lived Republic of the Rio Grande; Laredo became part of  
8 Texas in 1846 and was subsequently chosen as the seat of Webb  
9 County; and

10 WHEREAS, From its earliest days, Laredo was an important  
11 crossing on the Rio Grande and a trading center for livestock,  
12 hides, and wool; its role in international trade expanded with the  
13 arrival of the railroad in 1881 and with the development of the Zona  
14 Libre, or free trade zone, along the border between the United  
15 States and Mexico; its economy was further helped by coal mining,  
16 the introduction of onion farming, and the discovery of rich oil and  
17 gas fields; and

18 WHEREAS, Today, this bustling gateway city is the largest  
19 inland port along the U.S.-Mexico border and one of the top U.S.  
20 Customs districts in the nation, and its diverse economy benefits  
21 from the retail, hospitality, import and export, and petroleum  
22 industries; the city handles more than a third of all trade between  
23 the United States and Mexico; Laredo is also a focus for higher  
24 education in the Rio Grande Valley, as the home to Texas A&M

1 International University, two campuses of Laredo Community  
2 College, and a regional campus of The University of Texas Health  
3 Science Center; and

4 WHEREAS, Visitors and residents alike may explore such area  
5 attractions as the historic San Agustin Cathedral, the Republic of  
6 the Rio Grande Museum, and the Laredo Center for the Arts, while 40  
7 blocks of import vendors along San Bernardo Avenue draw shoppers  
8 from near and far; in addition, Laredo is home to Washington's  
9 Birthday Celebration, a 120-year-old, monthlong event that  
10 includes a carnival, a colonial pageant, a jalapeño festival, and a  
11 parade; and

12 WHEREAS, Boasting a rich heritage and a vibrant international  
13 culture, the people of Laredo may indeed take great pride in the  
14 role their community continues to play in the story of the Lone Star  
15 State; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
17 Legislature hereby recognize January 25, 2017, as Laredo Day at the  
18 State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best  
19 wishes for an enjoyable and informative visit to Austin.