

By: Clardy

H.R. No. 290

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, On February 16, 2017, members of the Nacogdoches
2 County Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Nacogdoches, and Stephen F.
3 Austin State University and its Student Government and Alumni
4 Associations are visiting Austin to celebrate Nacogdoches-SFA Day
5 at the State Capitol; and

6 WHEREAS, Nacogdoches is the site of a Caddo Native American
7 settlement and a Spanish mission established in 1716; founded by
8 Antonio Gil Y'Barbo, it received designation from Spain as a pueblo
9 in 1779, and today it proudly calls itself the first town in Texas;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The city became an important gateway for trade with
12 the French and later the Americans, and claims among its lengthy
13 list of Texas milestones being home to the first English-language
14 newspaper, oil well, and two-story building, as well as the state's
15 inaugural district court session; the nine flags flown over the
16 city include those of three short-lived early republics; and

17 WHEREAS, Today, the vintage charm of Nacogdoches brings
18 myriad tourists, who explore such attractions as the Old Stone
19 Fort, the Victorian homes along Mound Street, the 19th-century
20 buildings of Millard's Crossing, and the quaint antique shops and
21 restaurants along brick downtown streets; many also come to enjoy
22 the state-sanctioned Texas Blueberry Festival, which celebrates
23 the importance of the Texas blueberry industry, and to participate
24 in recreational activities at Lake Nacogdoches, Lake Naconiche, and

1 Sam Rayburn Reservoir, all known for their bass fishing; in
2 addition to tourism, the primary industries of the area include
3 agricultural services, manufacturing, and oil and gas, and the
4 construction and completion of the Interstate 69 system is critical
5 to continuing development in Nacogdoches County; and

6 WHEREAS, Education has been an important part of the area's
7 economy since Stephen F. Austin State University opened its doors
8 to 158 students on September 18, 1923; its alumni association was
9 organized just five years later and has worked diligently through
10 the years to support the school, which now has an enrollment of
11 approximately 13,000 students; SFA boasts an exceptionally scenic
12 campus recognized for the SFA Gardens and also operates a beef and
13 poultry farm, a dairy farm, an experimental forest, a forestry
14 field station, and the Waters of East Texas Center; its observatory
15 is the second largest not only in Texas but also in the Central Time
16 Zone, and on November 7, 2016, a groundbreaking ceremony was held
17 for the Ed and Gwen Cole STEM Building, which will provide new
18 educational opportunities for all Texans; and

19 WHEREAS, Beautifully situated in the Texas Forest Country,
20 Nacogdoches is attracting active retired Texans; it was one of the
21 first three communities in Texas recognized as a Go Texan certified
22 retirement community because of its cultural and sporting events,
23 health care, safety, and continuing education opportunities;
24 additionally, it has been designated the official Garden Capital of
25 Texas; and

26 WHEREAS, The combination of numerous amenities and a
27 neighborly atmosphere makes Nacogdoches a splendid place to live,

1 work, and study, and it is a pleasure to welcome those representing
2 the many facets of this vibrant part of the Lone Star State; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
5 Legislature hereby recognize February 16, 2017, as Nacogdoches-SFA
6 Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best
7 wishes for an enjoyable stay in Austin.