

By: Morrison

H.R. No. 407

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Proud residents of Aransas County are gathering in  
2 Austin to celebrate Aransas County Day at the State Capitol on  
3 February 23, 2017; and

4           WHEREAS, This region of thousand-year-old oaks, coastal  
5 prairie, and sandy beaches was first inhabited by native peoples  
6 8,000 years ago; and

7           WHEREAS, In 1828, the Mexican government awarded an  
8 empresario grant to bring in settlers from Ireland and Mexico, and  
9 not long after the Civil War, the towns of Fulton and Rockport were  
10 founded as ports for the cattle business; Aransas County was formed  
11 in 1871 and named after a Spanish palace; and

12           WHEREAS, Aransas County is the gateway to the 116,000-acre  
13 Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, where the amazing whooping cranes  
14 spend the winter, and Goose Island State Park, which has over  
15 200,000 visitors annually; and

16           WHEREAS, Rockport and Fulton Harbors are the home ports of  
17 many popular boating excursions for birders, dolphin watchers, and  
18 devotees of deep-sea and bay fishing, while the beautifully lit  
19 Fulton Harbor Pier and 8,690-foot-long Copano Bay Pier offer  
20 first-rate opportunities for angling; and

21           WHEREAS, The county's history is evoked by the 19th century  
22 Fulton Mansion and the 1870s Victorian-style Aransas County History  
23 Center, while the official Texas Maritime Museum in Rockport  
24 celebrates the marine heritage of the Lone Star State; the Rockport

1 Center for the Arts is a hub for the region's thriving cultural  
2 scene, which includes such festive annual events as the Bountiful  
3 Bowl Pottery Fair, the Fulton Oysterfest, the Rockport Film  
4 Festival, the HummerBird Celebration, LaMardi Gras, and the annual  
5 Rockport Festival of Wines; and

6 WHEREAS, Blessed with more magnificent bays than land, more  
7 redfish and trout than cars, and a chamber of commerce with a  
8 five-star rating, Aransas County is one of the treasures of the Lone  
9 Star State, and its citizens may indeed take great pride in their  
10 heritage and look forward to a future filled with opportunity and  
11 good times; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
13 Legislature hereby recognize February 23, 2017, as Aransas County  
14 Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation  
15 sincere best wishes for a memorable and meaningful visit to Austin.