

By: Bonnen of Brazoria

H.R. No. 738

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 7, 2017; 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 area 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; the town
14 of Columbia was the capital of Texas during the first Texas
15 Congress, and 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 numerous cities and towns of Brazoria
24 County boast excellent schools and affordable housing; visitors and

1 residents alike take great pleasure in miles of sandy beaches, bay
2 and offshore fishing, scuba diving, outstanding bird-watching, and
3 the Brazoria and San Bernard National Wildlife Refuges; the county
4 is also home to such attractions as the Nolan Ryan Center and the
5 Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site, and the county seat of
6 Angleton annually hosts the Brazoria County Fair, one of the
7 largest events of its kind in Texas; and

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

12 WHEREAS, The largest chemical complex in North America, the
13 Texas Gulf Coast Regional Airport, and a flourishing health care
14 industry are among the major contributors to economic growth in the
15 county, and Port Freeport, ranked 26th in the United States in
16 foreign tonnage, is one of the fastest growing ports on the Gulf
17 Coast; and

18 WHEREAS, The people of Brazoria County take great pride in
19 their rich history as they work together to build an even brighter
20 future, and it is indeed a privilege to honor them and their unique
21 contributions to the story of the Lone Star State; now, therefore,
22 be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
24 Legislature hereby recognize March 7, 2017, as Brazoria County Day
25 at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best
26 wishes for a meaningful and enjoyable stay in Austin.