

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 188

WHEREAS, The Texas Senate is proud to join the citizens of Jefferson and Orange Counties in celebrating Golden Triangle Days at the State Capitol on March 5 through 7, 2017; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of visitors from throughout the culturally unique region formed by the cities of Beaumont, Orange, and Port Arthur have come to Austin to meet with elected officials to express appreciation for their work and to inform lawmakers of opportunities to further strengthen the communities that make up the Golden Triangle; and

WHEREAS, Residents of Jefferson and Orange Counties have gathered for Golden Triangle Days to demonstrate their commitment to work together for the good of their region and the great State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson and Orange Counties continue to make significant strides to provide energy and chemical-manufactured products; the region is home to the Sabine Neches Waterway supporting the Ports of Beaumont, Orange, and Port Arthur making the ship channel fourth in the nation in tonnage, first as a United States crude oil importer, first in bulk liquid cargo, and first as the nation's commercial military out-load ports; the federal government, in legislation signed by the president on June 10, 2014, authorized improvements to include deepening the ship channel from 40 to 48 feet, thus making way for an improved globally competitive gateway to Texas; and

WHEREAS, The region is linked to an extensive rail and pipeline system that supports communities and businesses across the country and refines a minimum of 13 percent of America's daily fuel consumption; construction has been completed on the Keystone pipeline from Oklahoma to Jefferson County, and with over \$3 billion in announced new economic development projects and another \$20 billion under consideration, the region accounts for a major part of the wealth for the entire state and was first in Texas in gross domestic product growth this past year; and

WHEREAS, The distinctive cultural and historic contributions of this region are highlighted by numerous tourist attractions, including Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center, Big Thicket National Preserve, and such coastal habitats as Sea Rim State Park and the McFadden National Wildlife Refuge; they match the region's economic contributions with a strong commitment to the environment; in addition, the region is home to Lamar University, Lamar State College--Orange, Lamar State College--Port Arthur, and the Lamar Institute of Technology, as well as many other education and training assets which significantly contribute to a workforce-ready population; and

WHEREAS, The people of Orange and Jefferson Counties have been building a vibrant, forward-reaching region, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge the public-spirited citizens from the Golden Triangle here today for their dedication and commitment to their communities and to our great state; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby recognize March 5 through 7, 2017, as Golden Triangle Days at the State Capitol and welcome the region's visitors to Austin.

Creighton

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 13, 2017.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate