

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 209

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

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

WHEREAS, In 1828, the Mexican government awarded an empresario grant to bring in settlers from Ireland and Mexico, and not long after the Civil War, in the mid-1860s, the towns of Fulton and Rockport were founded as ports for the cattle business; Aransas County was formed in 1871 and named after a Spanish palace; and

WHEREAS, Aransas County is the gateway to the nearly 115,000-acre Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, where the amazing whooping cranes spend the winter, and Goose Island State Park, which has between 150,000 and 200,000 visitors annually; and

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

WHEREAS, The county's history is evoked by the 19th century Fulton Mansion and the 1870s Victorian-style Aransas County History Center, while the official Texas Maritime Museum in Rockport celebrates the marine heritage of the Lone Star State; the Rockport Center for the Arts is a hub for the region's thriving cultural scene, which includes such festive annual

events as the Bountiful Bowl Pottery Fair, the Fulton Oysterfest, the Rockport Film Festival, the HummerBird Celebration, LaMardi Gras, and the annual Rockport Festival of Wines; and

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

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

Kolkhorst

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 15, 2017.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate