

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 278**

**WHEREAS**, Proud citizens of Wharton County are gathering in Austin on February 28, 2017, to celebrate Wharton County Day at the State Capitol; and

**WHEREAS**, The county was founded in April of 1846, and its name commemorates two heroes of the Texas Revolution, brothers William Harris Wharton and John Austin Wharton; located on the Coastal Plain of Southeast Texas, it is bounded by Matagorda, Colorado, and Jackson Counties and by the San Bernard River, which marks its northern and northeastern borders with Austin and Fort Bend Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, More than 41,000 people call the area home, and its nearly 1,100 square miles primarily encompass prairie and timberland; the Colorado River, which traverses the county from northwest to southeast, divides it roughly in half and flows through the communities of Wharton and Glen Flora; and

**WHEREAS**, Prospective landowners first came to the plains of the Colorado River in 1822, led by Stephen F. Austin under contract with the Mexican government; during the time of the Republic of Texas, the area consisted of three counties, Matagorda, Jackson, and Colorado, containing isolated plantation homes and two growing towns, Preston and Egypt; and

**WHEREAS**, After Texas joined the United States in December 1845, Wharton County was formed from parts of the three existing counties near the intersection of the mail routes from Matagorda to Columbus and from Houston to Victoria; the advent of railroads and irrigation brought increased settlement to the area, which

remains a center of agricultural, educational, industrial, and medical services for a large region; and

**WHEREAS**, Wharton County's major cities and towns are El Campo, Wharton, East Bernard, Boling, and Louise; the county seat, Wharton, is known for its small-town way of life and its diverse cultural influences from immigrants of Czech, Danish, and Mexican ancestry; the city offers outstanding festivals and proximity to both Houston and the Gulf Coast, and it is noted for its excellent schools and championship football teams; the area also provides exceptional hunting and outdoor recreation opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, Residents of Wharton County are heirs to a rich history and heritage, and they may take pride in their county's myriad contributions to the Lone Star State as they look ahead to a promising future; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby recognize February 28, 2017, as Wharton County Day at the State Capitol and extend a warm welcome to the citizens of Wharton County who are here in Austin today.

Kolkhorst

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 22, 2017.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate