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By:  Guillen H.R. No. 249

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Residents of Kenedy County are gathering in Austin on March 5, 2019, for Kenedy County Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Situated along the Gulf of Mexico in South Texas, this region of coastal brush and grassland was first inhabited some 11,000 years ago by hunter-gatherers who lived off game, wild fruits, seeds, and roots; later, it was home to the Coahuiltecan and Lipan Apache peoples until the late 1700s and the arrival of the Spanish, who established large cattle ranches; and

WHEREAS, Anglo-Americans began to settle in the area in the 1800s, and the famous King Ranch was founded by Mifflin Kenedy and Richard King; the ranch eventually grew to 825,000 acres; named for the cofounder of the King Ranch, Kenedy County was established in 1921 as part of the reorganization of Willacy, Cameron, and Hidalgo Counties, and the county seat was situated in Sarita, where the King Ranch had its headquarters; and

WHEREAS, Today approximately 400 residents continue to ranch and raise cattle, as well as work in the oil and gas industry; Padre Island National Seashore runs along the gulf coast boundary, and visitors are drawn by the fine opportunities for hunting, fishing, and bird-watching; and

WHEREAS, Blessed with spacious skies, vast ranchlands, and miles of coastland, Kenedy County has played a memorable role in the story of Texas, and its residents may indeed take great pride in their history as they look forward to a future bright with promise; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize March 5, 2019, as Kenedy County Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best wishes for a meaningful and enjoyable stay in Austin.