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By:  Hernandez H.R. No. 252

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, A delegation from the Houston East End Chamber of Commerce is visiting the Capitol City on February 11 and 12, 2019, and this occasion provides a fitting opportunity to recognize the organization for its many accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, Predating the founding of the city of Houston, the East End can trace its origins to the 1820s, when New York entrepreneur John Harris established Harrisburg at the intersection of Braes and Buffalo Bayous; after briefly serving as the capital of the Republic of Texas, the town was annexed by Houston in 1926; today, the East End remains a location of great importance as the proud home of the Port of Houston, one of the nation's foremost ports for international trade and one of the largest port facilities in the world; and

WHEREAS, The Houston East End Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1991 to ensure the economic prosperity of the area; guided by this central goal, the chamber hosts a wide range of programs and events that encourage new commercial ventures and support existing businesses; moreover, the group created the Strategic Vision for the East End in 2006, and the chamber and its partners have since made outstanding progress, establishing an Economic Development Division in 2009 and the East End Street Fest in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to equipping the next generation with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed, the chamber has awarded more than $280,000 in scholarships over the past 12 years; in addition, the organization started an Education Symposium and helped organize Port of Houston Maritime Academies at Stephen F. Austin and Jack Yates High Schools as well as a National Engineering Academy at Chavez High School; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, the East End Chamber of Commerce has worked to enhance the business environment of Houston by providing excellent opportunities for networking, promotion, and education, and in so doing, the group has significantly contributed to the economic vitality of Southeast Texas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize February 11 and 12, 2019, as East End Days at the State Capitol and honor the Houston East End Chamber of Commerce for its exemplary efforts in behalf of the East End community and the surrounding area; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the chamber as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.