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By:  Hunter H.R. No. 316

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi is an outstanding institution that is committed to connecting people with nature and promoting conservation of the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, After two decades of planning, TSA first opened its doors in 1990 with an original exhibit on the Gulf of Mexico; over the years, numerous permanent and special exhibits have been introduced that allow spectators to see stingrays, bottlenose dolphins, a live bald eagle, and an underwater view of the habitat that forms around oil-drilling platforms; and

WHEREAS, This exemplary private, nonprofit organization also contributes to the community through a wide range of education and conservation programs and by offering field trips and summer camps; the aquarium features an artificial fossil dig site, and in 2017, the Caribbean Journey exhibit opened; and

WHEREAS, The Wildlife Rescue and Recovery Program was established more than 20 years ago and is an important part of the aquarium's mission; through the years, the program has treated thousands of distressed birds, reptiles, and marine mammals; most often the program cares for shorebirds and birds of prey, but the group has also provided care to sea turtles, dolphins, and manatees; and

WHEREAS, The Texas State Aquarium has received multiple awards for its work, including the prestigious Pinnacle Award from the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration; and

WHEREAS, By encouraging Texans to appreciate the diversity and vulnerability of marine life, the aquarium is making a significant contribution to the Lone Star State, and the efforts and achievements of all involved in this worthy endeavor indeed merit special commendation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize February 13, 2019, as Texas State Aquarium Day at the State Capitol and extend to all those associated with the aquarium sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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