86R8761 KSM-D

By:  Bonnen of Brazoria H.R. No. 364

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Public-spirited citizens of Matagorda County are gathering in Austin to celebrate Matagorda County Day at the State Capitol on February 19, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Taking its name from the Spanish phrase meaning "thick brush," this region of prairie, salt marshes, and coastal waterways was visited by the French explorer La Salle in 1685; the area constituted part of Stephen F. Austin's first colony, and settlers began arriving through Matagorda Bay during the winter of 1821-1822; in 1829, the town of Matagorda was established as a military post, and in 1836, Matagorda County became one of the original 23 counties of the Republic of Texas; and

WHEREAS, Matagorda ranked as the second-largest seaport in Texas for a time and served as a shipping point for cotton, sugar, and livestock raised in the county; when the boll weevil endangered the cotton crop in the early 20th century, farmers began to grow rice, and the discovery of oil and sulfur further diversified the area's economy; and

WHEREAS, Ranching, farming, and petroleum remain important, and the county also benefits from the presence of the South Texas Project nuclear plant, which generates enough electricity to power approximately two million homes in Texas; Bay City, the county seat, is a center of the petrochemical industry and the home of TenarisBayCity, an international pipe manufacturing company, while the port at Palacios is home to one of the largest fishing fleets on the Texas Gulf Coast; and

WHEREAS, Visitors and residents alike enjoy the county's fine beaches and its many opportunities for fishing and water sports; the county has been named the North American Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count winner for 24 out of the last 26 years, and birders from across the nation are drawn to the Mad Island Marsh Preserve and Wildlife Management Area; Bay City is the location of several attractions, including the annual county fair, livestock show, and rodeo, which take place in the early spring, and the Rice Festival, which is held in the fall; Palacios also hosts a number of special events, including the Matagorda Bird Fest & Parade and the Palacios Pirate Festival; and

WHEREAS, Matagorda County is an area of abundant natural resources and rich history, and its residents may take great pride in their notable heritage as they look forward to a future filled with promise; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize February 19, 2019, as Matagorda County Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best wishes for an informative and enjoyable stay in Austin.