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By:  Perez H.R. No. 412

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, A delegation from the Port of Houston is visiting Austin on February 19, 2019, in celebration of Port Authority Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Established by early settlers, the Port of Houston was originally located at the confluence of White Oak and Buffalo Bayous, now the site of Allen's Landing historic park in downtown Houston; activity expanded along Buffalo Bayou, and by the end of the 19th century, the bayou had become a major shipping channel; and

WHEREAS, In the wake of the hurricane that devastated Galveston in 1900, Harris County citizens approved the creation of a new Houston port; a $1.25 million bond campaign for dredging of the waterway was launched in 1911, and three years later, President Woodrow Wilson presided over the official opening of the port to traffic; and

WHEREAS, The port grew to become an economic powerhouse for the region, aided by the construction of the Barbours Cut terminal in 1977 and the Bayport terminal in 2006; currently ranking among the world's busiest deep-sea ports, it is first in our nation for foreign waterborne tonnage and second in total foreign and domestic waterborne tonnage, and it processes nearly 70 percent of the region's container traffic along the Gulf Coast; in addition, more than 1.2 million jobs across the state can be attributed to port commerce; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, the port received the Galveston Bay Foundation's Guardian of the Bay Award for its commitment to preserving and protecting natural resources; under the leadership of port commission chair Ric Campo and executive director Roger Guenther, the port continues to work in partnership with the foundation to further this mission; and

WHEREAS, The Port of Houston has been an engine for economic dynamism in Harris County for over a century, and through its continued growth, it contributes significantly to the prosperity of the entire state; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby honor the Port of Houston on the occasion of Port Authority Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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