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By:  Herrero H.R. No. 1148

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Many proud residents of Nueces County are visiting Austin on April 8, 2019, in celebration of Nueces County Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Located on the Gulf of Mexico in the Coastal Prairies region, the county has been the site of human habitation for as long as 8,000 years, and during historic times, the Coastal Bend area was occupied by the Coahuiltecans, Karankawas, Lipan Apaches, and Tonkawas; the first European visitors were likely led by Alonzo Álvarez de Pineda, who reportedly reached Corpus Christi Bay on the feast of Corpus Christi in 1519; well over two centuries later, early settlers came from Spain, Mexico, Ireland, and Germany, but even after the formation of Nueces County and the incorporation of Corpus Christi in 1846, the permanent population remained small; ranching was the mainstay of the local economy in late antebellum Texas; and

WHEREAS, Corpus Christi became an important center for commerce during the early Civil War years, and the 1870s were boom years for the cattle industry; in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the population began to grow significantly, centered in and around Corpus Christi; fertile soil and a favorable growing climate allowed cash-crop agriculture to flourish, and by 1930, Nueces County was a leader in cotton production; oil and natural gas further strengthened the economy, and in 1941, the U.S. Navy established an air station at Corpus Christi; by the end of the century, the diverse industrial base included tourism, agribusiness, construction, oil and gas field services, meat packing, soft-drink packaging, zinc refining, dairy production, and ship building and repairing; and

WHEREAS, Today, the county population is approaching 400,000, with the majority residing in Corpus Christi, Robstown, and Port Aransas; visitors from across the state and beyond flock to such attractions as the Padre Island National Seashore, Mustang Island State Park, and the Texas State Aquarium; agriculture and deepwater port activity continue to contribute significantly to the economy, while mineral production encompasses sand and gravel, as well as oil and gas; and

WHEREAS, Even as they celebrate their rich heritage, the hardworking citizens of Nueces County are looking ahead to the opportunities of the future and continuing to contribute to the growth and prosperity of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize April 8, 2019, as Nueces County Day at the State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable stay in Austin.