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By:  Herrero H.R. No. 1551

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, John P. LaRue, special advisor to the Port of Corpus Christi, is taking on new challenges in June 2019, following a distinguished 25-year tenure with the port; and

WHEREAS, Appointed executive director of the Port of Corpus Christi in 1994, Mr. LaRue guided its development from a regional port authority to the fourth-largest U.S. port in tonnage; he has been instrumental in setting port policy at the state and national levels, winning wide recognition for his expertise in port strategy; since becoming special advisor to the port authority in January 2019, he has remained a strong advocate for funding of the nation's critical infrastructure; he will continue to offer his insights in a senior advisory capacity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. LaRue is a member of the Texas Department of Transportation Port Authority Advisory Committee, and he previously served as chair; in addition, he has assisted TxDOT as a member of the Freight Advisory Committee and the Panama Canal Stakeholder Working Group; he has been a member of Port Industries of Corpus Christi, a coalition committed to improving the quality of life in the region, and he has also served on the boards of the International Refrigerated Transportation Association, the San Antonio Free Trade Alliance, and the American Association of Port Authorities; and

WHEREAS, Benefiting the wider community, Mr. LaRue has served as chair of the Gulf of Mexico Foundation and on the board of United Way; a native of Reading, Pennsylvania, he holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in political science from Villanova University; he began his career with the City of Philadelphia and went on to serve as commissioner of the Delaware River Port Authority and as president and CEO of the Philadelphia Port Corporation; in 1990, he was appointed founding executive director of the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority; in all his endeavors, he has enjoyed the love and support of his wife, Diane, and their four sons, and he takes great pride in his four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, The Port of Corpus Christi is an important engine for economic development, and through his vision and exemplary leadership, John LaRue has contributed significantly to the prosperity of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby honor John P. LaRue for his outstanding service to the Port of Corpus Christi and extend to him sincere best wishes as he embarks on the next exciting chapter of his life; and, be it further

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