

By: Raymond

H.R. No. 121

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Laredo are gathering in Austin to
2 celebrate Laredo Day at the State Capitol on January 30, 2019; and

3 WHEREAS, Originally known as San Agustin de Laredo, the city
4 was founded in 1755 as an outpost of the Spanish empire; it later
5 belonged to Mexico, after that country gained independence from
6 Spain in 1821, and nearly two decades later it was named the capital
7 of the short-lived Republic of the Rio Grande; Laredo became part of
8 Texas in 1846 and was subsequently chosen as the county seat of Webb
9 County; and

10 WHEREAS, From its earliest days, Laredo was an important
11 crossing on the Rio Grande and a trading center for livestock,
12 hides, and wool; its role in international trade expanded with the
13 arrival of the railroad in 1881 and with the development of the Zona
14 Libre, or free trade zone, along the border between the United
15 States and Mexico; its economy was further helped by coal mining,
16 the introduction of onion farming, and the discovery of rich oil and
17 gas fields; and

18 WHEREAS, Today, this bustling gateway city is the largest
19 inland port along the U.S.-Mexico border and one of the top
20 U.S. Customs districts in the nation, and its diverse economy
21 benefits from the retail, hospitality, import and export, and
22 petroleum industries; the city handles more than a third of all
23 trade between the United States and Mexico; Laredo is also a focus
24 for higher education in the Rio Grande Valley, as the home to Texas

1 A&M International University, two campuses of Laredo Community
2 College, and a regional campus of The University of Texas Health
3 Science Center; and

4 WHEREAS, Visitors and residents alike may explore such area
5 attractions as the historic San Agustin Cathedral, the Republic of
6 the Rio Grande Museum, and the Laredo Center for the Arts, while 40
7 blocks of import vendors along San Bernardo Avenue draw shoppers
8 from near and far; in addition, Laredo is home to Washington's
9 Birthday Celebration, a month-long event that includes a carnival,
10 a colonial pageant, a jalapeño festival, and a parade; and

11 WHEREAS, Boasting a rich heritage and a vibrant international
12 culture, the people of Laredo may indeed take great pride in the
13 role their community continues to play in the story of the Lone Star
14 State; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
16 Legislature hereby recognize January 30, 2019, as Laredo Day at the
17 State Capitol and extend to the visiting delegation sincere best
18 wishes for an enjoyable and informative visit to Austin.