

By: Bonnen of Brazoria

H.R. No. 364

R E S O L U T I O N

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

4 WHEREAS, Taking its name from the Spanish phrase meaning  
5 "thick brush," this region of prairie, salt marshes, and coastal  
6 waterways was visited by the French explorer La Salle in 1685; the  
7 area constituted part of Stephen F. Austin's first colony, and  
8 settlers began arriving through Matagorda Bay during the winter of  
9 1821-1822; in 1829, the town of Matagorda was established as a  
10 military post, and in 1836, Matagorda County became one of the  
11 original 23 counties of the Republic of Texas; and

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

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

1 the Texas Gulf Coast; and

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

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

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