

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 134**

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the citizens of Aransas County, who celebrated Aransas County Day on February 24, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, This region of thousand-year-old oaks, coastal prairie, and sandy beaches was first inhabited by native peoples some 8,000 years ago; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1828, the Mexican government awarded an empresario grant to bring in settlers from Ireland and Mexico, and shortly after the Civil War, the towns of Fulton and Rockport were founded as ports for the cattle industry; Aransas County was formed in 1871 and named after a Spanish palace; and

**WHEREAS**, Aransas County is the gateway to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, where North America's largest wild colony of endangered whooping cranes spends the winter; another local attraction, Goose Island State Park, draws more than 150,000 visitors annually; and

**WHEREAS**, Rockport and Fulton Harbors are the home ports of many popular boating excursions for birders, dolphin watchers, and devotees of deep-sea and bay fishing, and the area offers numerous other exceptional opportunities for angling; and

**WHEREAS**, The county's history is evoked by the 19th century Fulton Mansion and the Victorian-style Aransas County History Center, while the Texas Maritime Museum celebrates the state's rich marine heritage; the Rockport Center for the Arts is a hub for the region's thriving cultural scene, and the area's many annual events include the Bountiful Bowl Pottery Fair, the Fulton

Oysterfest, the Rockport Film Festival, the HummerBird Festival, LaMardi Gras, and the Rockport Festival of Wines; and

**WHEREAS,** One of the treasures of the Lone Star State, Aransas County is blessed with more magnificent bays than land, more redfish and trout than cars, and a chamber of commerce with a five-star rating; its citizens may indeed take great pride in their heritage and look forward to a future full of opportunity; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That the Senate of the State of Texas, 87th Legislature, hereby recognize February 24, 2021, as Aransas County Day; and, be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this special occasion.

Kolkhorst

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 11, 2021.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate