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By:  Cain H.R. No. 162

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Proud residents of Baytown are gathering in Austin on February 15, 2023, to take part in Baytown Day at the State Capitol and to celebrate the vibrant community they call home; and

WHEREAS, In 1822, Nathaniel Lynch started a ferry service at the confluence of the San Jacinto River and Buffalo Bayou near the Gulf of Mexico; two years later, William Scott, one of Stephen F. Austin's Old 300 settlers, established a homestead nearby, and a community named Bay Town grew up around it; other early settlers included Sam Houston and David G. Burnet, who each served as president of the Republic of Texas, and Mrs. Anson Jones, wife of the fourth and final Texas president; and

WHEREAS, The area remained mostly rural until 1908, when oil was discovered near Tabbs Bay, and in 1916, the first offshore drilling site in Texas was established near Goose Creek; starting in 1917, two towns, Pelly and Goose Creek, grew up around the oil fields, and that same year, Ross S. Sterling founded the Humble Oil and Refining Company, now known as ExxonMobil; in 1923, Humble Oil began laying out streets, installing utilities, and financing homes for its employees; in 1947, Pelly and Goose Creek consolidated, and on January 24, 1948, the city of Baytown was established, with a population of nearly 21,000 people; and

WHEREAS, In 2023, Baytown is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its incorporation with a series of public events; residents are invited to join in commemorating this milestone year by participating in 75 activities hosted throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, Today, Baytown is a dynamic community of more than 82,000 residents; its educational institutions include the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District and Lee College, and it boasts a downtown arts district that features the Baytown Little Theater, the Lee College Performing Arts Center, the Art Gallery of Baytown, and the Baytown Public Art Program; visitors are drawn by the opportunities for fishing, boating, and kayaking, and wildlife and birding enthusiasts enjoy the opportunities offered by the Baytown Nature Center and the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education Center; other popular destinations in the area include Houston Raceway Park, the Baytown Historical Museum, and the Baytown Sculpture Trail; and

WHEREAS, Among Baytown's notable natives are such figures as Pastor John Hagee, actor Gary Busey, former Houston mayor Bob Lanier, rock and roll musician Bobby Fuller, professional football player Howard Sampson, tennis great Sherwood Stewart, and singer and *The Voice* contestant RaeLynn Woodward; and

WHEREAS, The city and its residents benefit from the capable leadership of Mayor Brandon Capetillo and the six members of the city council, Laura Alvarado, Sarah Graham, Ken Griffith, Heather Betancourth, Jacob Powell, and Mike Lester; and

WHEREAS, Celebrating their rich and colorful history as they work together to build an even brighter tomorrow, the citizens of Baytown may take justifiable pride in the important role their community continues to play in the story of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby recognize February 15, 2023, as Baytown Day at the State Capitol and extend a warm welcome to the visiting delegation.