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By:  Lozano H.R. No. 199

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Residents of San Patricio County are gathering in Austin on March 23, 2023, to celebrate San Patricio County Day at the State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Situated on the broad coastal plain along the Gulf of Mexico, this region was originally inhabited by the Karankawa Indians; in 1829, 200 Irish families from New York formed a colony under a contract with the government of Mexico and founded the town of San Patricio de Hibernia, in honor of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland; the town was the site of a battle during the Texas Revolution in 1836, and later that same year, San Patricio County was created by the new Republic of Texas; and

WHEREAS, By 1860, San Patricio County was occupied by ranchers and farmers, and during the Civil War, a Confederate fort was built at Aransas Pass to deal with smugglers, rustlers, and Federal raiders; the county's economy was boosted in 1885 when the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway was extended to Aransas Harbor; the town of Sinton, named after an Ohio banker who had invested in the area's development, was designated as the county seat in 1893; and

WHEREAS, Oil and gas were discovered in the county in the early 20th century, and the petroleum industry and agriculture continue to be the foundation of the economy; cotton, sorghum, and cattle are all major products, along with shrimp from the commercial fisheries along the coast; the completion of a major dredging and expansion project at the La Quinta Ship Channel has increased opportunities for strategic international business partnerships, and in recent years, foreign and domestic companies have invested billions of dollars in the county's industrial sector; and

WHEREAS, Today, the people of San Patricio County enjoy a relaxed rural lifestyle while taking advantage of their proximity to the city of Corpus Christi; hunters, birders, kayakers, snorkelers, and devotees of sport fishing travel to the county for its many opportunities for recreation; the county is also home to the Welder Wildlife Refuge, one of the largest privately endowed refuges in the world; and

WHEREAS, Celebrating their colorful past as they work to build an even brighter future, those Texans who call San Patricio County home may indeed take great pride in the important role their unique region plays 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 March 23, 2023, as San Patricio County Day at the State Capitol and extend a warm welcome to the visiting delegation.