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By:  Guillen H.R. No. 203

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, February 10, 2023, marks the 175th anniversary of the founding of Starr County; and

WHEREAS, Located in South Texas along the Rio Grande and the U.S. border with Mexico, Starr County was visited by Spanish explorers in the 17th century, but it was not until 1749 that the Spanish crown issued land grants to settle the region; in 1763, the first settlement was made by Francisco de la Garza Martinéz, who founded Rancho Carnestolendas; another early settlement was established later that year by the Saenz family; by 1850, Los Saenz had been renamed Roma-Los Saenz and was a thriving community with an economy based on cattle and sheep ranching; and

WHEREAS, For a time following the Texas Revolution, both Mexico and the Republic of Texas laid claim to the area, which became part of Nueces County after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the Mexican War in 1848; that year, the county was organized and named for James Harper Starr; and

WHEREAS, Rio Grande City, the county seat, is located in the heart of Los Caminos del Rio Heritage Corridor, which contains numerous architectural and historical treasures from the 18th and 19th centuries; Roma, the second largest city in the county, is one of the best remaining Spanish colonial townsites in the lower Rio Grande Valley; the city was designated as a national historic district and was used in the filming of *Viva Zapata*, starring Marlon Brando; other notable towns include Escobares and La Grulla; and

WHEREAS, Residents and visitors alike benefit from the recreational opportunities afforded by Las Palomas State Wildlife Management Area and Falcon International Reservoir as well as year-round hunting; in addition, the county hosts a number of annual events, including the Starr County Fair and the Fourth of July Parade and Festival, held in Rio Grande City; and

WHEREAS, The people of Starr County share a rich and colorful heritage, and they may indeed take great pride in their home as they celebrate this milestone anniversary; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the 175th anniversary of Starr County and extend to its citizens sincere best wishes for the future.