

By: Raymond

H.R. No. 153

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Laredo are gathering in Austin to
2 celebrate Laredo Day at the State Capitol on February 8, 2023; and

3 WHEREAS, Originally known as San Agustin de Laredo, the city
4 was founded in 1755 as an outpost of the Spanish empire; it later
5 belonged to Mexico, after that country gained independence from
6 Spain in 1821, and nearly two decades later it was named the capital
7 of the short-lived Republic of the Rio Grande; Laredo became part of
8 Texas in 1846 and was subsequently chosen as the Webb County seat;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, From its earliest days, Laredo was an important
11 crossing on the Rio Grande and a trading center for livestock,
12 hides, and wool; its role in international trade expanded with the
13 arrival of the railroad in 1881 and with the development of the Zona
14 Libre, or free trade zone, along the border between the United
15 States and Mexico; its economy was further helped by coal mining,
16 the introduction of onion farming, and the discovery of rich oil and
17 gas fields; and

18 WHEREAS, Today, this bustling gateway city is the largest
19 inland port along the U.S.-Mexico border and one of the top
20 U.S. Customs districts in the nation, and its diverse economy
21 benefits from the retail, hospitality, import and export, and
22 petroleum industries; Laredo is also a focus for higher education
23 in the Rio Grande Valley, as the home to Texas A&M International
24 University, two campuses of Laredo Community College, and The

1 University of Texas Education and Research Center at Laredo; and

2 WHEREAS, Visitors and residents alike may explore such area
3 attractions as the historic San Agustin Cathedral, the Republic of
4 the Rio Grande Museum, and the Laredo Center for the Arts, while 40
5 blocks of import vendors along San Bernardo Avenue draw shoppers
6 from near and far; in addition, Laredo is home to Washington's
7 Birthday Celebration, a month-long event that includes a carnival,
8 a colonial pageant, a jalapeño festival, and a parade; and

9 WHEREAS, Boasting a rich heritage and a vibrant international
10 culture, the people of Laredo may indeed take great pride in the
11 role their community continues to play in the story of the Lone Star
12 State; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
14 Legislature hereby recognize February 8, 2023, as Laredo Day at the
15 State Capitol and extend a warm welcome to the visiting delegation.