

By: Cain

H.R. No. 162

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, In 2023, Baytown is celebrating the 75th anniversary
23 of its incorporation with a series of public events; residents are
24 invited to join in commemorating this milestone year by

1 participating in 75 activities hosted throughout the city; and

2 WHEREAS, Today, Baytown is a dynamic community of more than
3 82,000 residents; its educational institutions include the Goose
4 Creek Consolidated Independent School District and Lee College, and
5 it boasts a downtown arts district that features the Baytown Little
6 Theater, the Lee College Performing Arts Center, the Art Gallery of
7 Baytown, and the Baytown Public Art Program; visitors are drawn by
8 the opportunities for fishing, boating, and kayaking, and wildlife
9 and birding enthusiasts enjoy the opportunities offered by the
10 Baytown Nature Center and the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education
11 Center; other popular destinations in the area include Houston
12 Raceway Park, the Baytown Historical Museum, and the Baytown
13 Sculpture Trail; and

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

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

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

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