

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 203

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

17 WHEREAS, Rio Grande City, the county seat, is located in the  
18 heart of Los Caminos del Rio Heritage Corridor, which contains  
19 numerous architectural and historical treasures from the 18th and  
20 19th centuries; Roma, the second largest city in the county, is one  
21 of the best remaining Spanish colonial townsites in the lower Rio  
22 Grande Valley; the city was designated as a national historic  
23 district and was used in the filming of *Viva Zapata*, starring Marlon  
24 Brando; other notable towns include Escobares and La Grulla; and

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

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

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