

By: Morales of Harris

H.R. No. 249

RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Members of the Houston East End Chamber of Commerce
2 are gathering in Austin on February 15, 2023, to celebrate East End
3 Day at the State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Predating the founding of the city of Houston, the
5 East End can trace its origins to the 1820s, when New York
6 entrepreneur John Richardson Harris established Harrisburg at the
7 intersection of Brays and Buffalo Bayous; after briefly serving as
8 the capital of the Republic of Texas, the town was annexed by
9 Houston in 1926; today, the East End encompasses more than 234,000
10 people and 7,700 businesses, and it remains a location of great
11 importance as the proud home of the Port of Houston, one of the
12 nation's foremost ports for international trade and one of the
13 largest port facilities in the world; and

14 WHEREAS, The Houston East End Chamber of Commerce was founded
15 in 1991 to ensure the economic prosperity of the area; guided by
16 this central goal, the chamber hosts a wide range of programs and
17 events that encourage new commercial ventures and support existing
18 businesses, and in recent years, it has provided webinars and other
19 resources to help business leaders meet the challenges of the
20 COVID-19 pandemic; moreover, the group created the Strategic Vision
21 for the East End in 2006, and the chamber and its partners have
22 since made outstanding progress, establishing an Economic
23 Development Division in 2009 and the East End Street Fest in 2013;
24 the East End serves as the commercial center of the city and the hub

1 of its transportation systems, and an investment exceeding half a
2 billion dollars is bringing light rail through the heart of the
3 district as well as street beautification projects; and

4 WHEREAS, Dedicated to equipping the next generation with the
5 knowledge and skills necessary to succeed, the chamber foundation
6 has awarded more than \$500,000 in scholarships over the past 16
7 years; in addition, the chamber started an Education Symposium and
8 helped organize Port of Houston Maritime Academies at Stephen
9 F. Austin and Jack Yates High Schools as well as a National
10 Engineering Academy at Chávez High School; and

11 WHEREAS, The Houston East End Chamber of Commerce has
12 remained steadfast in its mission to promote economic vitality by
13 establishing strong connections throughout the community, and it is
14 a pleasure to recognize the organization for its myriad
15 contributions to the East End; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
17 Legislature hereby recognize February 15, 2023, as Houston East End
18 Chamber of Commerce East End Day at the State Capitol and extend a
19 warm welcome to the visiting delegation.