

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 1143

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of La Salle County are gathering in  
2 Austin on April 18, 2023, to celebrate La Salle County Day at the  
3 State Capitol; and

4 WHEREAS, Situated in South Texas and traversed by the Nueces  
5 and Frio Rivers, the area that is now La Salle County has been  
6 inhabited for approximately 11,000 years; in the 1850s, the U.S.  
7 Army briefly operated the Fort Ewell outpost on the road from San  
8 Antonio to Laredo, and by 1871, some 60 people lived in the nearby  
9 town of Guajoco; a number of ranchers moved into the region, and in  
10 1880, the county was formally organized, with Stuart's Rancho near  
11 Guajoco designated as its first seat of government; soon after, the  
12 International-Great Northern Railroad extended its line into the  
13 county, with landowner Joseph Cotulla donating land to encourage  
14 the railroad to pass through a townsite he was developing; over the  
15 years, Cotulla became the most populous town in the county, and the  
16 county seat was eventually moved there; and

17 WHEREAS, During the first decades of the 20th century, the  
18 introduction of commercial agriculture ushered in a new period of  
19 development, and national advertising campaigns attracted numerous  
20 settlers, more than doubling the county's population to over 4,700  
21 by 1910; in addition to cattle ranching, lucrative crops such as  
22 onions, peaches, pears, plums, figs, and cotton became staples of  
23 the local economy; in 1940, the first oil well was drilled, and  
24 production continued to rise in the succeeding decades, with nearly

1 two million barrels of crude oil produced in 1990; and

2 WHEREAS, Today, La Salle County has a population of more than  
3 6,500; the majority of the region's residents are concentrated in  
4 the cities of Encinal and Cotulla, which is home to the county's  
5 courthouse and airport; since 2008, shale oil production has  
6 further bolstered economic conditions; and

7 WHEREAS, Even as they celebrate their unique heritage, the  
8 citizens of La Salle County are looking ahead to the opportunities  
9 of the future, and they may reflect with pride on their  
10 contributions to the story of the Lone Star State; now, therefore,  
11 be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
13 Legislature hereby recognize April 18, 2023, as La Salle County Day  
14 at the State Capitol and extend a warm welcome to the visiting  
15 delegation.