

By: Alvarado

S.R. No. 161

R E S O L U T I O N

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 promote economic expansion and investment in the area;
16 guided by this central goal, the chamber hosts a wide range of
17 programs, such as business luncheons, business-to-business
18 seminars, and other events that encourage new commercial ventures,
19 foster good will, and support existing businesses, and in recent
20 years, it has provided webinars and other resources to help
21 business leaders meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic;
22 moreover, the group created the Strategic Vision for the East End in
23 2006, and the chamber and its partners have since made outstanding
24 progress, establishing an Economic Development Division in 2009 and

1 the East End Street Fest in 2013; the East End serves as the
2 commercial center of the city and the hub of its transportation
3 systems, and an investment exceeding half a billion dollars is
4 bringing light rail through the heart of the district as well as
5 street beautification projects; and

6 WHEREAS, Dedicated to equipping the next generation with the
7 knowledge and skills necessary to succeed, the chamber foundation
8 has awarded more than \$500,000 in scholarships over the past 17
9 years; in addition, the chamber launched an annual Education
10 Symposium and helped organize Port of Houston Maritime Academies at
11 Stephen F. Austin and Jack Yates High Schools as well as a National
12 Engineering Academy at Chávez High School; and

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

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