

By: Leo Wilson

H.R. No. 107

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce is  
2 marking its 180th anniversary with the second annual Galveston  
3 Island Country Music Fest on January 25, 2025, and this occasion  
4 provides a welcome opportunity to reflect on the many contributions  
5 this organization has made to the economic well-being of the  
6 community; and

7           WHEREAS, Established in 1845 by the Republic of Texas, the  
8 Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce is considered to be the  
9 oldest chamber of commerce in continuous operation in the Lone Star  
10 State; with more than 1,000 members, it represents a robust and  
11 diverse network of business, education, research and health care,  
12 government, nonprofit, and religious organizations; the chamber  
13 benefits from the able leadership of its president and chief  
14 executive officer, Gina M. Spagnola; and

15           WHEREAS, The Galveston chamber established itself as a  
16 catalyst for progress from the start by spearheading efforts to  
17 build a railroad line, a wagon bridge, and lifeboat stations along  
18 the coast; moreover, its early advocacy was instrumental in the  
19 construction of the Galveston Mercantile Library, the city's first  
20 such institution; its leaders also played an important role in  
21 instituting mail connections with neighboring counties, developing  
22 the port and waterborne commerce, and paving the way for The  
23 University of Texas Medical Branch; throughout its history, the  
24 chamber has been at the forefront of disaster recovery initiatives,

1 and its programs have helped sustain communities during wartime  
2 periods; further, the chamber sponsors such popular events as Mardi  
3 Gras! Galveston; and

4 WHEREAS, The Galveston Island Country Music Fest, which is  
5 being held at the Galveston Island Convention Center, will  
6 celebrate the chamber's commitment to the region and will feature  
7 such prominent Texan performers as Drake Milligan and The Powell  
8 Brothers; and

9 WHEREAS, For nearly two centuries, the Galveston Regional  
10 Chamber of Commerce has played an integral role in the growth and  
11 vitality of the community, and it is indeed deserving of  
12 recognition as it marks this special milestone in its history; now,  
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas  
15 Legislature hereby commemorate the 180th anniversary of the  
16 Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce and extend to its members  
17 sincere best wishes for continued success in all their endeavors;  
18 and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
20 prepared for the chamber as an expression of high regard by the  
21 Texas House of Representatives.