

By: Cain

H.R. No. 139

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Baytown are gathering in Austin  
2 on February 20, 2025, to take part in Baytown Day at the State  
3 Capitol and to celebrate the vibrant community they call home; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1822, Nathaniel Lynch started a ferry service at  
5 the confluence of the San Jacinto River and Buffalo Bayou near the  
6 Gulf of Mexico; two years later, William Scott, one of  
7 Stephen F. Austin's Old 300 settlers, established a homestead  
8 nearby, and a community named Bay Town grew up around it; other  
9 early settlers included Sam Houston and David G. Burnet, who each  
10 served as president of the Republic of Texas, and Mrs. Anson Jones,  
11 wife of the fourth and final Texas president; and

12 WHEREAS, The area remained mostly rural until 1908, when oil  
13 was discovered near Tabbs Bay, and in 1916, the first offshore  
14 drilling site in Texas was established near Goose Creek; starting  
15 in 1917, two towns, Pelly and Goose Creek, grew up around the oil  
16 fields, and that same year, Ross S. Sterling founded the Humble Oil  
17 and Refining Company, now known as ExxonMobil; in 1923, Humble Oil  
18 began laying out streets, installing utilities, and financing homes  
19 for its employees; in 1947, Pelly and Goose Creek consolidated, and  
20 on January 24, 1948, the city of Baytown was established, with a  
21 population of nearly 21,000 people; and

22 WHEREAS, Today, Baytown is a dynamic community of more than  
23 84,000 residents; its educational institutions include the Goose  
24 Creek Consolidated Independent School District and Lee College, and

1 it boasts a downtown arts district that features the Baytown Little  
2 Theater, the Lee College Performing Arts Center, the Art Gallery of  
3 Baytown, and the Baytown Public Art Program; visitors are drawn by  
4 the opportunities for fishing, boating, and kayaking, and wildlife  
5 and birding enthusiasts enjoy the opportunities offered by the  
6 Baytown Nature Center and the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Education and  
7 Recreation Center; other popular destinations in the area include  
8 the Baytown Historical Museum and the Baytown Sculpture Trail; and

9 WHEREAS, Among Baytown's notable natives are such figures as  
10 Pastor John Hagee, actor Gary Busey, former Houston mayor Bob  
11 Lanier, rock and roll musician Bobby Fuller, professional football  
12 player Howard Sampson, tennis great Sherwood Stewart, and singer  
13 and *The Voice* contestant RaeLynn; and

14 WHEREAS, The city and its residents benefit from the capable  
15 leadership of Mayor Charles Johnson and the six members of the city  
16 council, Laura Alvarado, Sarah Graham, Ken Griffith, James Franco,  
17 Jacob Powell, and Mike Lester; and

18 WHEREAS, Celebrating their rich and colorful history as they  
19 work together to build an even brighter tomorrow, the citizens of  
20 Baytown may take justifiable pride in the important role their  
21 community continues to play in the story of the Lone Star State;  
22 now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas  
24 Legislature hereby recognize February 20, 2025, as Baytown Day at  
25 the State Capitol and extend a warm welcome to the visiting  
26 delegation.