

By: Zaffirini

S.R. No. 33

SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize residents of Laredo as they gather at the State Capitol to celebrate Laredo Day on February 4, 2025; and

WHEREAS, San Agustin de Laredo was founded in 1755 as an outpost for the Spanish Empire; the city became part of Mexico after gaining independence from Spain in 1821, and nearly two decades later, it was named capital of the Republic of the Rio Grande; in 1846, Laredo officially became part of Texas and was subsequently chosen as the Webb County seat; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, Laredo has served as an important crossing point on the Rio Grande and a trading center for livestock, hides, and wool; its role in international trade expanded with the arrival of the railroad in 1881 and the development of the Zona Libre, or free trade zone, along the border between the United States and Mexico; the city's economy was bolstered by coal mining, onion farming, and the discovery of oil and gas fields; and

WHEREAS, This bustling gateway city is the largest inland port along the United States-Mexico border and one of the top United States Customs districts in the nation; its citizens benefit from the retail, health services, and hospitality industries, and as the home of Texas A&M International University, two campuses of Laredo College, and The University of

Texas Education and Research Center at Laredo, its emphasis on higher education is evident; and

WHEREAS, Visitors and residents enjoy such area attractions as the historic San Agustin Cathedral, the Republic of the Rio Grande Museum, the Laredo Center for the Arts, and citywide events like Washington's Birthday Celebration; and

WHEREAS, Boasting a rich heritage and a vibrant international culture, the people of Laredo may indeed take great pride in the role their community continues to play in the story of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, hereby commend the citizens of Laredo and extend a warm welcome to the visiting delegation; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this special occasion.