

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 123

WHEREAS, The outstanding endeavors of the Consulate General of France in Houston serve to strengthen the meaningful connections with Texas that have spanned many centuries; and

WHEREAS, In 1685, famed French explorer René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle, landed at present-day Matagorda Bay and built the Fort St. Louis stockade; the settlement was short-lived, but in 1818, a friend of Napoleon Bonaparte, General Charles Francois Antoine Lallemand, brought a band of army veterans to establish Champ d'Asile on thinly populated Spanish territory near modern Liberty; Spain did not take kindly to the incursion, but the brief French presence helped to define the Sabine River as the border between Louisiana and Texas; and

WHEREAS, France was the second country to recognize the Republic of Texas as a sovereign nation, and the two countries signed a commercial treaty in 1839 and opened their respective legations in Austin and Paris; in the following decade, more than 2,000 French Alsatians flocked to Castroville under the leadership of banker Henri Castro, and across the state, French Catholic missionaries developed schools and hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Favorable relations continued after Texas entered the Union and have flourished through the years; our economies benefit by the dynamism of imports and exports, totaling \$15.6 billion in 2022, making France our state's 14th-largest trade partner; in the last decade, French companies reported more than 80 investment projects in Texas; and

WHEREAS, Led since 2021 by Consul General Valérie Baraban, the Consulate General of France in Houston provides services to French citizens living in the Lone Star State; it also promotes

French business, science, and technology and fosters language learning and cultural appreciation through its Villa Albertine in Texas program; in 2024, it partnered in the creation of the French-American Cultural Foundation; and

WHEREAS, The friendship between France and Texas has long been a driver of prosperity and a source of vibrant cultural enrichment, and the efforts of the Consulate General of France in Houston continue to invigorate this multifaceted and mutually valuable exchange; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, hereby honor the Consulate General of France in Houston for its contributions and recognize the enduring bonds between France and Texas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for the consulate as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Huffman

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the
above Resolution was adopted by
the Senate on February 26, 2025.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate