

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, many residents engage in boating, fishing, and other recreational activities on the navigable waters around the gulf coast Brazoria County waters; and

WHEREAS, about 12% of U.S. households own or co-own a recreational vessel of some type, including open power boats, cabin power boats, personal watercraft, and paddle craft such as kayaks and canoes; and

WHEREAS, more than 200 recreational boating accidents happen each year in Texas, on average; and

WHEREAS, Texas suffered 201 reported recreational boating accidents in 2022, the latest year for which data are available, causing 132 injuries and more than \$2.7 million in damages; and

WHEREAS, on average, more than 600 people die each year in boating-related accidents in the United States and more than 2,000 are injured on average; and

WHEREAS, the majority of these accidents are caused by human error, inexperience, or poor judgment and not by the boat, equipment or environmental factors; and

WHEREAS, alcohol use remains a leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents; and

WHEREAS, operator inattention and inexperience are also leading contributing factors in mishaps, causing hundreds of accidents and dozens of fatalities annually; and

WHEREAS, the United States Coast Guard considers operator use of engine cut-off switches to be important because when operators of powerboats are ejected or fall overboard, the boat will typically continue to operate, until it runs out of fuel, runs aground, or collides with another boat/object; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of boaters who lose their lives by drowning each year would be alive today had they worn their life jackets; and

WHEREAS, boating safety courses and boating safety campaigns can teach people how to adhere to better boating practice and help them to boat more safely; and

WHEREAS, United States Coast Guard statistics show that, of the accidents where the level of operator education was known, 75% of boating deaths occurred on boats where the boat operator had never received boating education instruction.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Brazoria County Commissioners Court does hereby proclaim May 18, 2024 to May 24, 2024 as

SAFE BOATING WEEK

and the start of a year-round effort to promote safe boating within Brazoria County.

APPROVED this 14th day of May, 2024.

Commissioner, Precinct 1
Donald "Dude" Payne

Brazoria County Judge
L. M. "Matt" Sebesta, Jr.

Commissioner, Precinct 2
Ryan Cade

Commissioner, Precinct 3
Stacy L. Adams



Commissioner, Precinct 4
David Linder