

# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the origins of Port Freeport date back to the early 1820s when Stephen F. Austin recognized the Brazos River's potential as a deep-water port, selecting the area for his colony. Over time, the region evolved into a hub of trade and commerce. In 1925, following a recommendation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Brazoria County Commissioners Court held an election to establish the Brazos River Harbor Navigation District, leading to the construction of the Diversion Channel. The first public dock facilities were completed in 1936, laying the foundation for a thriving port; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 542, officially renaming the Brazos River Harbor Navigation District as Port Freeport, reflecting its growth and expanded role in global commerce; and

WHEREAS, Port Freeport has become a critical hub for international trade and industrial expansion, ranking among the top ports in the United States. It stands 10th in foreign waterborne export tonnage, 14th in total foreign waterborne tonnage, and 6th in chemical exports, serving as a key gateway for the petrochemical, energy, agricultural, and automotive industries; and

WHEREAS, major infrastructure investments, including the \$295 million Freeport Harbor Channel Improvement Project set for completion in 2025, will deepen the channel to 56 feet, making Port Freeport the deepest port in Texas and further enhancing its global competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, Port Freeport has significantly contributed to the economy by generating an annual impact of \$157.3 billion and supporting over 266,000 jobs nationwide, reflecting its vital role in the economic prosperity of Brazoria County, the State of Texas, and the United States; and

WHEREAS, in September 2024, the Port Freeport Commission adopted a historic zero-tax rate, ensuring the port's financial self-sufficiency while continuing to drive economic and infrastructure development; and

WHEREAS, Port Freeport has demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainability, innovation, and operational excellence, ensuring the safe and efficient movement of goods while fostering economic opportunities and environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, as Port Freeport commemorates its 100th anniversary, Brazoria County recognizes its enduring legacy, from the arrival of Stephen F. Austin's colonists to its transformation into a leading global trade hub, celebrating its contributions to economic prosperity, industry, and infrastructure development.

WHEREAS, a copy of this Proclamation shall be presented to Port Freeport as a lasting tribute to its centennial milestone and as an expression of our deepest appreciation for its achievements and contributions.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Brazoria County Commissioners Court does hereby honor and congratulate

## PORT FREEPORT

On their

### 100th Anniversary

of esteemed service, and legacy of maritime excellence. We commend Port Freeport for its century of service, leadership, and economic impact for its role in the success and prosperity of Brazoria County, the State of Texas, and the United States. May you continue your phenomenal work and continue to prosper for centuries more.

APPROVED this 8th day of April, 2025.

Brazoria County Judge

L. M. "Matt" Sebesta, Jr.

Commissioner, Precinct 1

Jay Burridge

Commissioner, Precinct 2

Ryan Cade

Commissioner, Precinct 3

Stacy L. Adams

Commissioner, Precinct 4

David Linder

