

PROCLAMATION

Texas Navy Week in Aransas County

September 13-20, 2025

During the period leading up to the Texas Revolution, the Texians realized that a naval force was necessary to guard the Gulf of Mexico and defend the coast against incursions by the Mexican Navy. Four ships — *Liberty*, *Independence*, *Invincible*, and *Brutus* — became the First Texas Navy. Though none of the ships survived the conflict, the First Texas Navy helped to secure a decisive victory at San Jacinto by forcing Santa Anna to approach the Texians overland via long marches through inhospitable terrain.

As the revolution continued, the Provisional Government recognized the continuing need for a maritime force and established the Second Texas Navy with seven vessels, including the steamship *Zavala*. The Second Texas Navy played an important role in the outcome, protecting supply lines with the United States, primarily from New Orleans, and other countries while blocking vessel traffic from Mexico. In 1843, although outmanned and outgunned, the Texian fleet defied all odds when its sailing vessels defeated Mexican steamships at the Battle of Campeche. Over time, all seven of the vessels were lost, and the only artifacts from those ships are scraps of the boiler from the *Zavala*, which now reside here in Rockport at the Texas Maritime Museum.

The men of the Texas Navy exemplified the strength, honor, and courage that define the people of Texas, and their memory will live forever in the annals of Texas history. In 1936, Former President Theodore Roosevelt said of the Texas Navy, "...it's no exaggeration to say that without it there would probably have been no Lone Star Republic and possibly the State of Texas would still be part of Mexico."

In 1958, Governor Price Daniel reactivated the Texas Navy, and the organization is now known as the Texas Navy Association. Its mission is: "To preserve and promote an appreciation of the historic character and heroic acts of the Texas Navy. To promote travel by visitors to historical sites and areas in which the Texas Navy operated. To conduct, in the broadest sense, a public relations campaign to create a responsible and accurate image of Texas. And, to encourage Texas communities, organizations, and individuals, as well as governmental entities, to participate with actions and money in pursuit of these objectives."

Today, in the City of Rockport in Aransas County, the Texas Maritime Museum, the official maritime museum of the state, carries on the Texas Navy mission as part of its broad slate of programs that focus on showcasing the maritime history of our state. The Museum is also the homeport to the TNS *Zavala* Squadron of the Texas Navy Association, the only Texas museum to have that connection to our state's maritime history.

Each year, on the third Saturday of September, Texas celebrates Texian Navy Day to remember the brave sailors who helped make Texas a bastion of liberty and opportunity. This year, the Texas Maritime Museum will honor the Texas Navy with a program at the museum on

September 13 and an expanded Texas Navy exhibit that will be in place through the end of the year.

In recognition of the Texas Navy's contributions to our state, we hereby proclaim that September 13, 2025, through September 20, 2025, is recognized as Texas Navy Week in the Town of Fulton.

***IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my signature and the seal of the Town of Fulton, this 7th day of May 2025.*

Kelli Cole, Mayor

ATTEST:

Stephanie Garcia, City Secretary