



**FEBRUARY 2017**

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### **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Every year, Americans celebrate the meaningful history of African Americans in the U.S. African Americans are entrenched in America's history, having a significant impact on the formation and development of America. This month, we honor those African American men and women who bravely fought for equality and social justice. The sacrifices and challenges they faced because of their skin color are not forgotten.

### **GOLDEN TRIANGLE DAYS**

Golden Triangle Days in Austin begins on March 5th and goes until March 7th. It is a great opportunity for me, along with delegates from the Golden Triangle, to meet and discuss key issues affecting Texas and the Golden Triangle area. The Golden Triangle is home to some of the largest refineries in the nation and is responsible for \$942 million in annual taxes for the State of Texas.

### **TEXAS MEDAL OF ARTS**

Texas Cultural Trust's signature event, the Texas Medal of Arts Awards, will take place in Austin, on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 21-22, 2017 at Texas Performing Arts, The University of Texas at Austin. Since its outset in 2001, the Texas Medal of Arts Awards have awarded 99 medals to 105 Texas leaders and exemplary people who have achieved great feats with their creative talents, as well as those who have provided artistic opportunities for Texans of all ages. I am honored to attend the event and to have the opportunity to recognize inspiring people.

### **PORT DAY**

I was recently chosen by the Speaker of the House, Speaker Straus, to chair the House Select Committee on Texas Ports, Innovation & Infrastructure. It is a great privilege to chair this committee, as Texas Ports are vital to the state's economy and drive the economy of Southeast Texas. This Chairmanship will provide me with a great opportunity to have a significant impact on our local ports, as well as ports across Texas. On Wednesday, February 22nd, I am meeting

with port directors from across Texas to analyze the current state of Texas ports, and discuss several plans for the future of Texas ports.

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