

By: Stucky

H.C.R. No. 27

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The stagecoach, a quintessential symbol of the
2 American frontier, played a pivotal role in the founding of the city
3 of Bridgeport and continues to hold special significance to the
4 community to this day; and

5 WHEREAS, Bridgeport traces its beginnings to 1860, when a
6 group organized by William H. Hunt secured a charter from the West
7 Fork Bridge Company to construct a bridge that would allow
8 stagecoaches with the Overland Mail Company to traverse the West
9 Fork of the Trinity River; the shipment of supplies by stagecoaches
10 and wagons became integral to Bridgeport's economy and helped shape
11 the community's development in its early decades; and

12 WHEREAS, With its annual Butterfield Stage Days Festival,
13 Bridgeport has long celebrated its origin as a stop on the historic
14 Butterfield Overland Mail route, which stretched from St. Louis,
15 Missouri, and Memphis, Tennessee, to San Francisco, California; in
16 recent years, the route has garnered increased recognition for its
17 historical importance, and it was officially designated as the
18 Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail in January 2023; and

19 WHEREAS, In addition to Butterfield Stage Days, Bridgeport
20 incorporates the stagecoach into a number of other annual events,
21 and the Bridgeport Visitor Center houses a replica Abbot-Downing
22 Concord coach, a stagecoach originally manufactured in 1827;
23 moreover, the city's efforts as part of the Texas Main Street
24 Program also incorporate the stagecoach as an embodiment of

1 Bridgeport's historic past and frontier spirit; and

2 WHEREAS, Through its legacy as a historic transportation
3 waypoint and its connection to the famed Butterfield Overland Mail
4 route, Bridgeport contributed to the development of our state and
5 nation, and its citizens continue to derive a special sense of pride
6 and identity from their city's association with one of the West's
7 most iconic symbols, the stagecoach; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas
9 hereby redesignate Bridgeport as the official Stagecoach Capital of
10 Texas; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
12 [391.003\(e\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
13 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
14 passed by the legislature.