

By: Hopson

H.C.R. No. 17

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The luminescence of myriad stars has long shone  
2 forth from the city of Kilgore; and

3 WHEREAS, Among the brightest of those lights has been Van  
4 Cliburn, the renowned classical pianist, who lived there in his  
5 youth; in addition, Kilgore was the birthplace of Alice Lon, a  
6 vocalist who won widespread popularity as the Champagne Lady on *The*  
7 *Lawrence Welk Show* in the 1950s and who went on to perform for two  
8 decades in nightclubs and in concerts; and

9 WHEREAS, For 18 seasons, the actors and actresses of  
10 Kilgore's annual Texas Shakespeare Festival have brought the  
11 splendor of the Bard's plays to the stage, in what has been  
12 acclaimed as the best Shakespeare festival in the state; equally  
13 dedicated to their craft are the famed Kilgore College Rangerettes,  
14 who have dazzled audiences overseas, at the 2001 presidential  
15 inaugural parade, and at every Cotton Bowl since 1951; Kilgore  
16 itself has also been the star of the show in an episode of the  
17 television travel magazine *Show Me Texas*; and

18 WHEREAS, Once a quiet rural community, Kilgore saw its name  
19 blazed across Texas with the discovery of oil around the city in the  
20 fall of 1930; situated near the heart of the East Texas oil field,  
21 the largest such field in the lower 48 states, the town at one time  
22 boasted a downtown block with the densest concentration of oil  
23 derricks anywhere on the globe; in the late summer of 1931, as  
24 tumultuous conditions continued to beset the new boomtown, the

1 state sent a star of its own, the legendary Texas Ranger Manuel T.  
2 "Lone Wolf" Gonzauillas, to help restore order; and

3 WHEREAS, During World War II, oil from the East Texas field  
4 helped to fuel the Allied effort; today, more than 60 oil derricks  
5 dot the Kilgore skyline, and each is surmounted by a star that is  
6 lit after dark--a reminder that the Stars and Stripes of our country  
7 wave free in part because of the major contribution that East Texas  
8 oil made to the Allied victory; and

9 WHEREAS, In view of these many associations with stellar  
10 individuals, institutions, and contributions in the nation's  
11 behalf, the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce is seeking appropriate  
12 recognition for this outstanding community; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas,  
14 1st Called Session, hereby designate Kilgore as the official Texas  
15 City of Stars.