

1-1 By: Hopson (Senate Sponsor - Ratliff) H.C.R. No. 6
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House September 17, 2003;
1-3 September 17, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Administration; September 22, 2003, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; September 22, 2003, sent to
1-6 printer.)

1-7 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-8 WHEREAS, The luminescence of myriad stars has long shone
1-9 forth from the city of Kilgore; and

1-10 WHEREAS, Among the brightest of those lights has been Van
1-11 Cliburn, the renowned classical pianist, who lived there in his
1-12 youth; in addition, Kilgore was the birthplace of Alice Lon, a
1-13 vocalist who won widespread popularity as the Champagne Lady on *The*
1-14 *Lawrence Welk Show* in the 1950s and who went on to perform for two
1-15 decades in nightclubs and in concerts; and

1-16 WHEREAS, For 18 seasons, the actors and actresses of
1-17 Kilgore's annual Texas Shakespeare Festival have brought the
1-18 splendor of the Bard's plays to the stage, in what has been
1-19 acclaimed as the best Shakespeare festival in the state; equally
1-20 dedicated to their craft are the famed Kilgore College Rangerettes,
1-21 who have dazzled audiences overseas, at the 2001 presidential
1-22 inaugural parade, and at every Cotton Bowl since 1951; Kilgore
1-23 itself has also been the star of the show in an episode of the
1-24 television travel magazine *Show Me Texas*; and

1-25 WHEREAS, Once a quiet rural community, Kilgore saw its name
1-26 blazed across Texas with the discovery of oil around the city in the
1-27 fall of 1930; situated near the heart of the East Texas oil field,
1-28 the largest such field in the lower 48 states, the town at one time
1-29 boasted a downtown block with the densest concentration of oil
1-30 derricks anywhere on the globe; in the late summer of 1931, as
1-31 tumultuous conditions continued to beset the new boomtown, the
1-32 state sent a star of its own, the legendary Texas Ranger Manuel T.
1-33 "Lone Wolf" Gonzauillas, to help restore order; and

1-34 WHEREAS, During World War II, oil from the East Texas field
1-35 helped to fuel the Allied effort; today, more than 60 oil derricks
1-36 dot the Kilgore skyline, and each is surmounted by a star that is
1-37 lit after dark--a reminder that the Stars and Stripes of our country
1-38 wave free in part because of the major contribution that East Texas
1-39 oil made to the Allied victory; and

1-40 WHEREAS, In view of these many associations with stellar
1-41 individuals, institutions, and contributions in the nation's
1-42 behalf, the Kilgore Chamber of Commerce is seeking appropriate
1-43 recognition for this outstanding community; now, therefore, be it

1-44 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas,
1-45 3rd Called Session, hereby designate Kilgore as the official Texas
1-46 City of Stars.

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