

By: Hilderbran

H.C.R. No. 30

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The blue topaz, the official State Gem of Texas, is  
2 found within Texas only in Mason County, in the Llano uplift area;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, Topaz, which can occur in many colors, was first  
5 identified in Mason County in 1904; in the past, area residents  
6 reportedly came across topaz crystals so sizeable that they could  
7 be used as doorstops; and

8           WHEREAS, The largest known gem-quality topaz ever found in  
9 North America was a pale blue topaz discovered in Mason County;  
10 weighing 1,296 grams, the stone is now housed at the Smithsonian  
11 Institution; and

12           WHEREAS, Ranking third in hardness among the minerals, after  
13 diamonds and corundum, topaz has been used in amulets and jewelry  
14 for thousands of years; because of its size, color, and clarity,  
15 Texas topaz is considered to be among the best in the United States;  
16 and

17           WHEREAS, Today, the opportunity to hunt for topaz draws a  
18 number of tourists to Mason County, while the sale of topaz  
19 gemstones further contributes to the local economy; and

20           WHEREAS, Topaz constitutes an important part of Mason  
21 County's historical and cultural heritage, and it is fitting that  
22 the association between topaz and Mason County be appropriately  
23 recognized; now, therefore, be it

24           RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas,

H.C.R. No. 30

1 3rd Called Session, hereby designate Mason County as the official  
2 Topaz Capital of Texas.