

By: Allen

H.R. No. 1672

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In every nation across the globe, the cowboy boot is
2 universally recognized as a symbol of the Lone Star State, an icon
3 that captures perfectly both the historical romance of the Old West
4 and the enduring reputation of our citizens as bold, independent
5 trailblazers; in Texas, custom-made cowboy boots are considered as
6 fashionable as they are functional, and they can be found on the
7 feet of ranchers and cattle drivers, of grooms on their wedding day,
8 and, for the past 20 years, of well-heeled legislators and
9 legislative employees who tread the carpets and floors of the Texas
10 State Capitol; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1983, State Senator John T. Montford launched a
12 legislative tradition in the Lone Star State that has continued to
13 this day, the wearing of finely crafted cowboy boots embellished
14 with Texas state seals and symbols; and

15 WHEREAS, At first this custom was observed by only a handful
16 of senate committee members and by Senator Montford's own staff;
17 one of these enthusiastic participants was Virginia Carter, the
18 future wife of State Representative Bill Carter, and together the
19 couple introduced this fancy footwear to the chamber and hallways
20 of the house of representatives; and

21 WHEREAS, Over the course of the past two decades, several of
22 the world's leading bootmakers have contributed their time and
23 considerable skill toward the design and manufacture of boots that
24 are proudly worn by members, both current and former, of the

1 legislative community; these wearable works of art are indeed a
2 testament to the talent and dedication of such craftsmen as Bobby
3 Austin, the original legislative bootmaker at Dan Post Boots in El
4 Paso, and Harry Henze, Jr., the nationally renowned artisan at
5 Bunkhouse Boots who this year has added handstitched detailing to
6 the footwear of the 78th Legislature; and

7 WHEREAS, Uniting the technology of the present with the
8 intricate leatherwork of the past, every pair of legislative cowboy
9 boots is ornamented with the official house or senate seal and,
10 optionally, with the owner's name; more importantly, every pair is
11 destined to be a deeply meaningful memento of the owner's time as a
12 public servant and an example of American folk art that preserves
13 and pays tribute to the Lone Star State's incomparable style,
14 spirit, and beauty; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
16 Legislature hereby commemorate the 20th anniversary of our state's
17 legislative cowboy boot tradition and extend sincere appreciation
18 to all those who have designed, created, and crafted these unique
19 boots for the legislative community since 1983.