By: Lucio S.C.R. No. 51

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, In 2003, King Ranch celebrates its 150th anniversary, and this presents a welcome opportunity for the Texas Legislature to honor a uniquely Texan institution the history of which since 1853 has both followed and shaped that of the Lone Star State itself; and

WHEREAS, King Ranch has been called the birthplace of American ranching and is firmly established as an industry leader through its innovative cattle and horse breeding program, which once produced the first truly American breed of beef cattle; home to the first registered quarter horse and to our state's only Triple Crown winner, the ranch and its Running W brand are enduring icons of the American West; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its long and storied history, King Ranch has contributed significantly to the development of South Texas by drilling the first artesian wells in the area, investing in key railway lines and seaports, and contributing to civic and charitable organizations in Kingsville, Corpus Christi, and other nearby communities; the men and women who contributed to the success of the Running W brand have been true pioneers, exhibiting boldness and determination in their mastery of the rugged South Texas environment and exemplifying the spirit of generosity and ambition for which the Lone Star State is renowned; and

WHEREAS, Encompassing more than 825,000 acres, King Ranch is

S.C.R. No. 51

still one of the largest cattle ranches in the United States, and its continued existence as an intact geographic area is a testament to the longstanding commitment of the members of the King family and to the sacrifices they have made; the demands of a growing American population, in combination with modern property and probate taxation policies, have continued to erode our nation's once vast open spaces, and the King Ranch has defied the odds, preserving one of the country's largest single areas of undeveloped private land and promoting the practice of responsible wildlife management; and

WHEREAS, A pioneer in cotton production and cultivation, King Ranch has diversified its interests from ranching into many other areas of agribusiness; every year, this remarkable enterprise produces 600,000 tons of sugar and 120 million square-feet of sod and, as the largest citrus operation in the country, it also

specialty fruit; and

WHEREAS, In addition to its fame as a commercial operation, King Ranch is known throughout Texas ranching, farming, and environmental circles for its longtime support of important educational and research projects related to agriculture; as this Texas landmark celebrates its sesquicentennial this year, it has chosen to continue this tradition through the creation of a truly extraordinary gift to the citizens of Texas, the King Ranch Institute for Ranch Management at Texas A&M University—Kingsville; and

produces 16 million boxes of oranges as well as a million boxes of

WHEREAS, From the early cattle drives of 1853 to the creation of new educational opportunities in ranch management, the King

S.C.R. No. 51

- 1 Ranch Family and the Kineños--the "King's People"--have carved out
- 2 a significant place in our state's rich and diverse history; the
- 3 ranch and its employees have made invaluable contributions to the
- 4 culture, heritage, and economy of the State of Texas, and we join
- 5 together today to pay tribute to the past, present, and future
- 6 success of this true Lone Star legend; now, therefore, be it
- 7 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
- 8 hereby congratulate King Ranch on the occasion of its
- 9 sesquicentennial and extend to its owners and employees best wishes
- 10 for continued success; and, be it further
- 11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
- 12 prepared for King Ranch as an expression of high regard by the Texas
- 13 Senate and House of Representatives.