

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

10 WHEREAS, A pioneer in cotton production and cultivation, King
11 Ranch has diversified its interests from ranching into many other
12 areas of agribusiness; every year, this remarkable enterprise
13 produces 600,000 tons of sugar and 120 million square-feet of sod
14 and, as the largest citrus operation in the country, it also
15 produces 16 million boxes of oranges as well as a million boxes of
16 specialty fruit; and

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

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

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.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 51 was adopted by the Senate on May 12, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 51 was adopted by the House on May 28, 2003.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor