

By: Lucio

S.C.R. No. 51

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, Encompassing more than 825,000 acres, King Ranch is
24 still one of the largest cattle ranches in the United States, and

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

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

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

25 WHEREAS, From the early cattle drives of 1853 to the creation
26 of new educational opportunities in ranch management, the King
27 Ranch Family and the Kineños--the "King's People"--have carved out

1 a significant place in our state's rich and diverse history; the
2 ranch and its employees have made invaluable contributions to the
3 culture, heritage, and economy of the State of Texas, and we join
4 together today to pay tribute to the past, present, and future
5 success of this true Lone Star legend; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
7 hereby congratulate King Ranch on the occasion of its
8 sesquicentennial and extend to its owners and employees best wishes
9 for continued success; and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
11 prepared for King Ranch as an expression of high regard by the Texas
12 Senate and House of Representatives.