

By: Giddings

H.C.R. No. 19

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, A long and tumultuous struggle for woman suffrage
2 culminated in the United States with the ratification 85 years ago
3 of the 19th Amendment to the Federal Constitution; and

4 WHEREAS, Agitation for woman suffrage had begun 72 years
5 earlier, when five women issued a call for a convention, which was
6 held in Seneca Falls, New York, on July 19 and 20, 1848, to discuss
7 the condition and rights of women; Elizabeth Cady Stanton, one of
8 the five organizers of the meeting, drew up a Declaration of
9 Sentiments, patterned on the Declaration of Independence, and 11
10 resolutions, including one asserting the need for female suffrage;
11 all of the resolutions were adopted, and of the approximately 300
12 individuals in attendance, some 100 signed the declaration; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1869, Wyoming's territorial legislature became
14 the first level of government in the United States to grant female
15 suffrage and when Wyoming was admitted into the Union as our 44th
16 state in 1890, it was the first state in which females could vote,
17 serve on juries, and hold public office; following closely behind
18 were Colorado in 1893 and both Idaho and Utah in 1896; and

19 WHEREAS, Over the ensuing years, strategies for achieving
20 woman suffrage in all states varied; while some worked to pass
21 suffrage laws in the individual states, others mounted legal
22 challenges to male-only voting laws; by 1916, however, most of the
23 major suffrage organizations had concluded that their best hope lay
24 in a national constitutional amendment to assure uniformity

1 throughout the country; and

2 WHEREAS, The political tide began to favor the suffragists
3 after New York gave women the right to vote in 1917 and the
4 following year, President Woodrow Wilson announced his support for
5 a constitutional amendment granting women the right to vote
6 nationwide; in 1919, a suffrage amendment passed in both houses of
7 the 66th Congress, and on August 18, 1920, by a margin of just one
8 vote in its state legislature, Tennessee became the last state
9 needed for the amendment to be ratified and fully incorporated into
10 this country's constitution; and

11 WHEREAS, The 2nd Called Session of the 36th Texas Legislature
12 ratified the 19th Amendment--the ninth state to favor it; more than
13 60 years after that, Mississippi's lawmakers were the last to
14 approve it belatedly in 1984; and

15 WHEREAS, Adoption of the 19th Amendment marked a major
16 advance in bringing to fruition the ideal of civil equality that
17 lies at the heart of the American way of life; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas,
19 2nd Called Session, 2005, hereby commemorate the 85th anniversary
20 of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States
21 Constitution.