

By: Cook of Colorado

H.C.R. No. 19

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The city of Giddings and Lee County welcome visitors  
2 year-round to a multitude of festive events that reflect the area's  
3 rich heritage and hospitable spirit; and

4           WHEREAS, Founded in 1871 along the line of the Houston and  
5 Texas Central Railway, Giddings became the county seat when Lee  
6 County was created in 1874; as an administrative and judicial  
7 center, the town echoed with the voices of a highly diverse  
8 population, for Lee County, in the 19th century, was home to a large  
9 number of immigrants, among whom were Wends, Germans, Czechs,  
10 Moravians, and Danes; by 1890, nearly one out of every eight  
11 citizens in the county was foreign born; and

12           WHEREAS, Although cotton was the primary crop, agriculture in  
13 Lee County was relatively varied during the last quarter of the 19th  
14 century; the coming of the railroad in the 1870s provided a  
15 tremendous boost to cattle raising and hog production, and today  
16 livestock and livestock products account for the greatest part of  
17 the county's agricultural income; by virtue of its location on the  
18 H&TC, Giddings developed into a major shipping point for the area's  
19 farms, ranches, and businesses; and

20           WHEREAS, In order to promote an awareness and understanding  
21 of the forces that have shaped the present-day county, as well as  
22 much of the state, the Giddings Economic Development Corporation is  
23 planning to restore the town's railroad depot buildings and to use  
24 part of the space for a Rural Texas Tourism Center and

1 Transportation Museum; and

2           WHEREAS, Lee County's colorful past, its cultural  
3 inheritance, and its strong communal bonds are particularly evident  
4 during a number of special events that take place throughout the  
5 year; among the most prominent of these is the Lee County Fair and  
6 Rodeo, whose program includes the Charcoal Challenge, for barbecue  
7 aficionados, and the State of Texas Noodle Cook-Off; the rodeo is  
8 held in Giddings, which is also the site of the Lee County Junior  
9 Livestock Show and Sale, the National Old Timer's Rodeo, the Pro  
10 Bull Riders Fourth of July Bull Riding contest, the Bull Ball in the  
11 Fall, and the Rope and Smoke Tournament, sponsored by the Brazos  
12 Valley Chapter of the American Petroleum Institute; and

13           WHEREAS, In addition to events that bespeak the county's  
14 ranching heritage, other highlights of the year serve to mark major  
15 historical events, support civic organizations and worthy causes,  
16 and celebrate ethnic folkways and contributions; the scene of many  
17 such occasions, Giddings is home to the Lee County Juneteenth  
18 Celebration, Fireman's Fourth of July Celebration, American Legion  
19 Veterans' Day Breakfast, 911 Firefighters Appreciation, "Friends  
20 of the Depot" Wine and Jazz Festival, St. Margaret's Catholic  
21 Church and Immanuel Lutheran Church Fall Festivals, Rotary Club  
22 Country Music Monday, Rotary/Sheriff Posse Fun Night, Lions Club  
23 Chili Bowl Cook-off, "Word Wrangler" Festival, and Lee County  
24 Heritage Valentine's Day Gala; and

25           WHEREAS, A short distance from Giddings, the community of  
26 Serbin, established in 1855, hosts a festival to celebrate the  
27 culture and achievements of the area's Wendish settlers, as well as

1 an annual picnic and an Advent Candlelight Dinner; and

2 WHEREAS, The Lee County calendar is also dotted with such  
3 events as the Dime Box Homecoming and Mini Marathon, the Fedor Fish  
4 Fry, and the Lincoln Community Club Picnic and Crawfish Boil;  
5 attractions in Lexington range from the Homecoming reunion and  
6 Fourth of July celebration to the Christmas Tree Lighting Festival  
7 and Chocolate Lover's Festival; and

8 WHEREAS, Altogether, Lee County features more than 200 events  
9 a year, offering a wide variety of entertainment for Texas  
10 families, and it is fitting that this outstanding corner of the Lone  
11 Star State be appropriately recognized; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas,  
13 3rd Called Session, hereby designate Giddings and Lee County as the  
14 official Festival Capital of Texas.