

By: Hilderbran

H.C.R. No. 129

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Y. O. Ranch in Kerr County is celebrating its
2 125th anniversary in 2005, and this historic milestone offers a
3 fitting opportunity to recognize one of the oldest ranches in Texas
4 and to pay tribute to the strong-willed and visionary individuals
5 who have developed and maintained this Hill Country acreage; and

6 WHEREAS, Purchased in 1880 by German immigrant Captain
7 Charles Schreiner, the Y. O. Ranch was inherited by Walter R.
8 Schreiner, the captain's youngest son, in 1917 when the family
9 patriarch divided his vast land holdings among his eight children;
10 young Walter worked the 69,000-acre tract until his untimely death
11 in 1933, at which time his wife, Myrtle, took on the day-to-day
12 responsibilities of running the ranch; and

13 WHEREAS, Although inexperienced in the business of ranching,
14 Myrtle relied on the advice and assistance of her brothers-in-law,
15 while applying her no-nonsense attitude and unique ideas to the
16 ranching operation; she raised cattle, sheep, and goats on the
17 land, and in 1943 she pioneered the concept of leasing ranchland for
18 hunting purposes; and

19 WHEREAS, Myrtle and Walter's son, Charlie III, helped guide
20 the ranch through tough times in the 1950s; he emulated his mother's
21 penchant for innovation by shipping the cattle to Nebraska, South
22 Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana in an effort to save the livestock
23 during a seven-year drought that threatened to wipe out the Y. O.
24 herd; his success in that endeavor was followed by playing a key

1 role in the preservation of the Longhorn steer and founding the
2 Texas Longhorn Breeders Association to promote the hardy, resilient
3 Longhorn breed; and

4 WHEREAS, Today, the Y. O. Ranch is much more than just a
5 cattle company; the ranch is also home to more than 60 exotic animal
6 species--the result of Charlie III's conservation partnership with
7 San Antonio Zoo curator Fred Stark--as well as Y. O. Ranchlands, a
8 residential development project that began in 1986 and allows
9 individuals to purchase tracts of land and live among the exotic
10 game; and

11 WHEREAS, Much like the State of Texas, the Y. O. Ranch has
12 changed a great deal over the years, evolving and adapting to
13 survive and thrive in our modern world, while retaining its unique
14 spirit of independence and innovation, and this notable spread of
15 Hill Country pastureland is an appropriate reminder of the Lone
16 Star State's glorious past and a symbol of a bright and prosperous
17 future; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
19 hereby recognize the 125th anniversary of the Y. O. Ranch and extend
20 best wishes to the Schreiner family for continued success and good
21 fortune; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for the Schreiner family as an expression of high regard by
24 the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.