

By: Homer

H.C.R. No. 165

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Citizens from Lamar County are visiting the State
2 Capitol on May 4, 2005, to celebrate Paris/Lamar County Day; and

3 WHEREAS, Located in North Texas in the heart of the Red River
4 Valley, Lamar County was once home to the Caddo Indians, who are
5 believed to have occupied the area shortly after 500 A.D.; during
6 the 1600s, Europeans began to explore the land, and Anglos first
7 settled there around 1815; officially organized on February 1,
8 1841, Lamar County was named for Mirabeau B. Lamar, the fourth
9 president of the Republic of Texas; and

10 WHEREAS, George W. Wright, a member of the 3rd Texas Congress
11 and a major promoter of the founding of the county, donated 50 acres
12 of land for a townsite, which became Paris and was established as
13 the county seat in 1844; and

14 WHEREAS, A center for commerce and manufacturing, Paris has
15 long played a significant role in the development of the area;
16 today, the city is home to four Fortune 500 manufacturers, yet it
17 maintains its small-town charm, as evidenced by its 1920s downtown
18 architecture; the city is also known for the unique photo-op
19 offered by its distinctive landmark, a replica of the Eiffel Tower
20 topped by a cowboy hat; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1997, Paris was designated the Official Crape
22 Myrtle City of Texas, and according to local legend, the city is
23 also the birthplace of the French fry; as the story goes, Fletcher
24 Davis, who ran a small cafe in Athens, introduced the hamburger to

1 an appreciative crowd at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904; when
2 interviewed by a reporter from the *New York Tribune*, he explained
3 that the sandwich was his invention but that he learned to make the
4 accompanying crispy potatoes from a friend in Paris; the reporter
5 thought he meant Paris, France, and wrote about the delicious
6 hamburger and its companion "French-fried potatoes"; and

7 WHEREAS, Food enthusiasts may enjoy the city's culinary lore,
8 but those who prefer outdoor recreations will take pleasure in
9 Crook and Pat Mayse Lakes, which offer many sporting activities;
10 the community's Sam Bell Maxey House and other historic sites
11 impart a sense of the town's rich heritage; and

12 WHEREAS, Residents of Lamar County ensure the vitality of
13 their region by preserving their rich legacy and preparing for a
14 productive future, while providing tourists with an attractive and
15 enjoyable destination to visit; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
17 hereby recognize May 4, 2005, as Paris/Lamar County Day at the State
18 Capitol and extend to its citizens sincere best wishes for an
19 enjoyable visit to Austin.

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