

By: Hilderbran

H.R. No. 1419

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Stowers Ranch in Kerr County celebrated its 100th
2 anniversary in 2004, and this important milestone has provided an
3 apt occasion to reflect on the ranch's rich history as well as its
4 current role in the ranching industry; and

5 WHEREAS, Founded in 1904 by George Arthur Stowers as a cattle
6 ranch, game management area, and hunting preserve, this 11,251-acre
7 ranch is located at the headwaters of the north fork of the
8 Guadalupe River, approximately 13 miles west of Hunt; remaining in
9 the Stowers family for the past century, the historical property is
10 now owned and managed by the three grandchildren and six
11 great-grandchildren of Mr. Stowers; and

12 WHEREAS, A game-proof perimeter fence, in place for more than
13 98 years, has ensured a healthy whitetail deer population; in 1910,
14 nonindigenous game was first introduced with the importation of
15 elk; while elk are no longer on the ranch, several other exotic
16 species were introduced in the 1960s, and the ranch now
17 accommodates freely roaming herds of axis, fallow, and sika deer,
18 aoudad, and blackbuck; and

19 WHEREAS, For the past 40 years, the ranch has managed its
20 pastures by following a carefully planned program of brush removal,
21 time-controlled grazing, and varying stocking rates that has led to
22 an aesthetically pleasing blend of open and wooded areas, a broad
23 diversity of grasses and other plants, and a landscape that is
24 reminiscent of the way the Texas Hill Country looked two centuries

1 ago; and

2 WHEREAS, Today, the ranch conducts a commercial cattle
3 business and is actively engaged in commercial hunting of native
4 and exotic game; in recent years, it has also become involved in
5 several forms of ecotourism, including hiking, game and bird
6 viewing, and ranch tours; and

7 WHEREAS, The role of the family ranch in Texas history is both
8 important and long-standing, and it is fitting that the descendants
9 of George Arthur Stowers be lauded for their enduring contributions
10 to agriculture, game conservation, and the preservation of the
11 natural beauty of the Hill Country landscape; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
13 Legislature hereby recognize Stowers Ranch on its 100th anniversary
14 and extend to all members of the Stowers family sincere best wishes
15 for continued success; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for the Stowers family as an expression of high regard by
18 the Texas House of Representatives.