

By: Seliger, Duncan

S.C.R. No. 8

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Texas is pleased to
3 recognize the importance of the chuck wagon to the state's history
4 and culture and to designate it as the official vehicle of Texas;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The chuck wagon has been important in Texas since
7 the great cattle drives that lasted from the end of the Civil War to
8 the mid-1880s; during that period, approximately 10 million head of
9 cattle were driven along trails all the way from Texas to railheads
10 in Kansas, Missouri, Wyoming, and Canada; and

11 WHEREAS, During the early days of the trail drives, a cowboy
12 relied for survival strictly on what he could carry with him,
13 experiencing hunger and discomfort; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1866, Texas rancher and Civil War veteran Charles
15 Goodnight first used an army surplus Studebaker wagon on the trail
16 drive; the Studebaker proved itself sturdy enough to withstand
17 trail drives that could last up to five months; and

18 WHEREAS, Goodnight then designed and added a chuck box and a
19 boot to the rear of his wagon; this innovation became the prototype
20 for all future chuck wagons; the wagon's box was used to carry the
21 cowboys' bedrolls, guns, personal effects, bulk food supplies, feed
22 for the horses, and other supplies; and

23 WHEREAS, Today The American Chuck Wagon Association has 123
24 registered chuck wagons and over 200 members; the association's

1 members are committed to restoring and maintaining chuck wagons
2 with their own resources, which has ensured that the chuck wagon
3 will continue to function as a viable tool on many of our Texas
4 ranches and add to our state's historical and cultural charm; now,
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
7 hereby acknowledge the important value of preserving the chuck
8 wagon and designate the chuck wagon as the official vehicle of
9 Texas; and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared as an
11 expression of esteem from the Texas Legislature.