

By: Martinez

H.C.R. No. 12

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The State of Texas has customarily recognized a  
2 variety of official symbols as tangible representations of the  
3 state's culture and natural history; and

4           WHEREAS, The heritage of the Lone Star State is closely  
5 associated with images of cowboys and the western frontier, and  
6 these elements inform several of the current Texas symbols,  
7 including rodeo, the official state sport, and the longhorn, the  
8 state large mammal; and

9           WHEREAS, A singular fashion associated with the American West  
10 is the bolo tie, also known as the bola tie, which is distinguished  
11 by its decorative clasp that fastens a length of cord or string; a  
12 staple of the western-wear fashions sported by a large number of  
13 Texans, the bolo tie conjures up the romance of the pioneer era and  
14 speaks to the determination and independence that figure so  
15 prominently in Lone Star lore; and

16           WHEREAS, Patented in 1959 by an Arizona silversmith named  
17 Victor Cedarstaff, who was said to have gotten the inspiration for  
18 the design while on horseback, the bolo tie has been traced to older  
19 elements of ranching culture and the people of the western United  
20 States; the name derives from the bola or *boleadora*--a lariat with  
21 weights at the end that was used by South American cowboys to  
22 ensnare cattle; stylistically, it is similar to the string or  
23 plantation ties popular in the era when Texas was being settled, and  
24 it also resembles a type of tie worn by Native Americans in the

1 early 1900s, which consisted of a bandanna or string fastened by a  
2 silver concho ornament; and

3 WHEREAS, The bolo tie remains popular among many American  
4 Indians, and intricate designs fashioned by Native American  
5 craftspeople using silver, turquoise, and other materials stand as  
6 some of the finest examples of bolo tie artistry; these factors make  
7 the neckwear a poignant testament to this region's original  
8 inhabitants and also to the many people of American Indian descent  
9 who are today Texas residents; and

10 WHEREAS, A fashion accessory that can be personalized to  
11 reflect the wearer's taste and interests, the bolo tie is well  
12 matched to the individualism that is so much a part of the Texan  
13 identity; in selecting or designing a clasp, bolo tie wearers are  
14 able to express their personal flair; moreover, the selection of a  
15 bolo over a standard tie can suggest that the wearer refuses to be  
16 bound by convention and relishes the freedom to exhibit a  
17 distinctive sense of style even as they maintain a dignified,  
18 formal appearance; and

19 WHEREAS, The bolo tie symbolizes both the state's iconic  
20 western culture and the originality of its residents, and it is  
21 indeed appropriate that this handsome and unique apparel receive  
22 special legislative recognition; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas  
24 hereby designate the bolo tie as the official State Tie of Texas.