

1-1 By: Brown of Kaufman (Senate Sponsor - Nichols) H.C.R. No. 15  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House March 26, 2007;  
1-3 April 3, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Government Organization; May 1, 2007, reported favorably by the  
1-5 following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 1, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-6 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-7 WHEREAS, Athens, Texas, boasts a strong claim to being the  
1-8 original home of one of the nation's favorite foods, the hamburger;  
1-9 and

1-10 WHEREAS, Although accounts differ as to the origins of this  
1-11 American classic, the staff at McDonald's management training  
1-12 center has traced its beginnings back to the 1904 St. Louis World's  
1-13 Fair, where it was sold by a vendor on the midway; a reporter for the  
1-14 New York *Tribune*, writing about the fair, made note of the new  
1-15 sandwich in an article and commented that it was the vendor's own  
1-16 creation; and

1-17 WHEREAS, The vendor, Fletcher Davis, had moved from Missouri  
1-18 to Athens in the 1880s to take a job at the Miller pottery works;  
1-19 Mr. Davis had a flair for preparing food and usually served as chef  
1-20 at his employer's picnics; when the business slowed down in the late  
1-21 1800s, he opened a lunch counter on the courthouse square, where he  
1-22 sold the sandwich that would become such a staple of the U.S. diet;  
1-23 and

1-24 WHEREAS, Although it was served with slices of fresh-baked  
1-25 bread instead of a bun, this early version of the hamburger was then  
1-26 much like it is today and contained ground beef, ground mustard  
1-27 mixed with mayonnaise, a large slice of Bermuda onion, and sliced  
1-28 cucumber pickles; customers could also enjoy fried potatoes, served  
1-29 with a thick tomato sauce; when the journalist from the *Tribune* was  
1-30 told that Mr. Davis had learned to fix potatoes in that manner from  
1-31 a friend in Paris, Texas, he misunderstood and described the item to  
1-32 his readers as french-fried potatoes; and

1-33 WHEREAS, According to a nephew of Mr. Davis's, the new  
1-34 sandwich acquired its name during the potter's sojourn in  
1-35 St. Louis; one theory holds that local residents of German descent  
1-36 may have named the sandwich after the city of Hamburg, whose  
1-37 citizens had a special affinity for ground meat; each June,  
1-38 residents of Athens celebrate the hamburger's origins in their  
1-39 community with Uncle Fletch's Burger and Bar-B-Q Cook-Off; and

1-40 WHEREAS, A century after the hamburger debuted on the  
1-41 national stage, it has become one of the best-loved foods in  
1-42 America; its economic impact is no less evident than its  
1-43 popularity: the immense volume of the burger business helps to  
1-44 drive the beef and grain industries and supports the employment of a  
1-45 substantial workforce; and

1-46 WHEREAS, The connection between Athens, Fletcher Davis, and  
1-47 the famed hamburger of the St. Louis World's Fair has been well  
1-48 documented, and it is fitting that the town's role in the history of  
1-49 that all-American sandwich be appropriately recognized; now,  
1-50 therefore, be it

1-51 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas  
1-52 hereby formally designate Athens, Texas, as the Original Home of  
1-53 the Hamburger.

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