

By: Cook of Colorado

H.C.R. No. 49

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Lee County welcomes visitors year-round to a
2 multitude of festive events that reflect the area's rich heritage
3 and hospitable spirit; and

4 WHEREAS, Giddings, the largest town in the county, was
5 founded in 1871 along the line of the Houston and Texas Central
6 Railway, and the city became the county seat when Lee County was
7 created in 1874; as an administrative and judicial center, the town
8 echoed with the voices of a highly diverse population, for the
9 county's early residents included a large number of immigrants,
10 especially Wends, Germans, Czechs, Moravians, and Danes; by 1890,
11 nearly one out of every eight citizens in Lee County was foreign
12 born; and

13 WHEREAS, Although cotton was the primary crop, agriculture in
14 Lee County was relatively varied during the last quarter of the 19th
15 century; the coming of the railroad in the 1870s provided a
16 tremendous boost to cattle raising and hog production, and today
17 livestock and livestock products account for the greatest part of
18 the county's agricultural income; by virtue of its location on the
19 H&TC, Giddings developed into a major shipping point for the area's
20 farms, ranches, and businesses; and

21 WHEREAS, In order to promote a better understanding of forces
22 that have shaped life in Lee County and the lives of many Texans
23 across the state, the Giddings Economic Development Corporation has
24 led in establishing the Rural Texas Tourism Center and

1 Transportation Museum; this fine resource is to be located downtown
2 in the former railroad depot buildings, which the corporation is
3 currently restoring; and

4 WHEREAS, Lee County's colorful past, its cultural
5 inheritance, and its strong communal bonds are particularly evident
6 during a number of special events that take place throughout the
7 year; among the most prominent of these is the Lee County Fair and
8 Rodeo, whose program includes the Charcoal Challenge, for barbecue
9 aficionados, and the State of Texas Noodle Cook-Off; the rodeo is
10 held in Giddings, which is also the site of the Lee County Junior
11 Livestock Show and Sale, the National Old Timer's Rodeo, the Pro
12 Bull Riders Fourth of July Bull Riding contest, the Bull Ball in the
13 Fall, and the Rope and Smoke Tournament, sponsored by the Brazos
14 Valley Chapter of the American Petroleum Institute; and

15 WHEREAS, In addition to events that bespeak the county's
16 ranching heritage, other highlights of the year serve to mark major
17 historical events, support civic organizations and worthy causes,
18 and celebrate ethnic folkways and contributions; the scene of many
19 such occasions, Giddings is home to the Lee County Juneteenth
20 Celebration, Fireman's Fourth of July Celebration, American Legion
21 Veterans' Day Breakfast, 911 Firefighters Appreciation, "Friends
22 of the Depot" Wine and Jazz Festival, St. Margaret's Catholic
23 Church and Immanuel Lutheran Church Fall Festivals, Rotary Club
24 Country Music Monday, Rotary/Sheriff Posse Fun Night, Lions Club
25 Chili Bowl Cook-off, "Word Wrangler" Festival, and Lee County
26 Heritage Valentine's Day Gala; and

27 WHEREAS, A short distance from Giddings, the community of

1 Serbin, established in 1855, hosts a festival to celebrate the
2 culture and achievements of the area's Wendish settlers, as well as
3 an annual picnic and an Advent Candlelight Dinner; and

4 WHEREAS, The Lee County calendar is also dotted with such
5 events as the Dime Box Homecoming and Mini Marathon, the Fedor Fish
6 Fry, and the Lincoln Community Club Picnic and Crawfish Boil;
7 attractions in Lexington range from the Homecoming reunion and
8 Fourth of July celebration to the Christmas Tree Lighting Festival
9 and Chocolate Lover's Festival; and

10 WHEREAS, Altogether, Lee County features more than 200 events
11 a year, offering a wide variety of entertainment for Texas
12 families, and it is fitting that this outstanding corner of the Lone
13 Star State be appropriately recognized; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
15 hereby designate Lee County as the official Festival Capital of
16 Texas.