

By: Flynn

H.C.R. No. 136

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature has customarily recognized a
2 variety of symbols as representations of the rich cultural heritage
3 and natural history of this state; and

4 WHEREAS, From the days of the Plains Indians and the earliest
5 Spanish ranches, Texas has been a realm where expert horsemanship
6 has held a place of distinct honor; today, many of the equestrian
7 skills that have played such a crucial role in the state's history
8 are honed by adults and children alike for exhibition at rodeos and
9 other riding competitions; and

10 WHEREAS, The Ghostriders are a group of youth and adult
11 riders whose mission is to keep alive the spirit of the Old West;
12 formed on August 4, 2001, this nonprofit organization consists of
13 three units, the Ghostriders Rodeo Team, the Ghostriders Youth
14 Team, and the Texans; based at Canton, these teams perform at
15 rodeos, parades, equestrian competitions, and other special events
16 around the state; and

17 WHEREAS, Open to riders of all skill levels, the Ghostriders
18 enjoy a warm, close fellowship while training to a very high
19 standard; though established less than a decade ago, they have
20 already won numerous awards, including the U.S. Equestrian Drill
21 Competition national championship, the state rodeo drill team
22 championship, and the youth drill team championship; and

23 WHEREAS, In addition to fostering exceptional horsemanship
24 and providing outstanding family entertainment, the Ghostriders

1 have played a constructive civic role through their sponsorship of
2 a scholarship and their honoring of community heroes at rodeos
3 where they have appeared; and

4 WHEREAS, At the present time, the Ghostriders enjoy
5 partnerships with the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame, as well as with the
6 Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, and Pawnee Indian nations; and

7 WHEREAS, Nearly 500 years have elapsed since horses first
8 splashed through the surf and onto Mexican soil with the
9 conquistador Hernando Cortes; during that half millennium, the
10 animal became essential to many cultures in Texas, and the horse and
11 rider emerged as one of the iconic images of the Lone Star State;
12 through their deftly executed and heart-quickenning performances,
13 the Ghostriders evoke the ineffable bond that has joined countless
14 riders and their mounts, while conjuring up the myriad feats these
15 pairs have accomplished across the centuries and the vast expanses
16 of this storied land; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
18 hereby designate the Ghostriders as the official Rodeo Drill Team
19 of Texas.