

By: Flynn (Senate Sponsor - Deuell) H.C.R. No. 136
(In the Senate - Received from the House March 22, 2007;
April 3, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on
Government Organization; May 8, 2007, reported favorably by the
following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 8, 2007, sent to printer.)

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, In addition to fostering exceptional horsemanship
and providing outstanding family entertainment, the Ghostriders
have played a constructive civic role through their sponsorship of
a scholarship and their honoring of community heroes at rodeos
where they have appeared; and

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

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

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

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