

By: Merritt

H.C.R. No. 188

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Skeeter Products, a noted Texas manufacturer whose
2 boats have won the admiration of fishing enthusiasts around the
3 world, is approaching its 60th anniversary, and this milestone
4 provides an opportunity to honor the many accomplishments of this
5 successful company; and

6 WHEREAS, The Skeeter story begins in 1948, when avid
7 fisherman Holmes Thurmond of Marshall built a 13-foot wooden boat
8 that was designed specifically for bass fishing; its stability and
9 shallow-water hull design caught the attention of other bass
10 fishermen in East Texas and western Louisiana, and Mr. Thurmond's
11 model soon became the center of a thriving business; the
12 needle-shaped nose on these craft made them resemble a mosquito,
13 resulting in the name Skeeter, which soon became well known
14 throughout the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, Pioneering new ways to improve its product, Skeeter
16 became one of the first companies to use fiberglass in boat
17 manufacturing, introducing this durable new material in 1961; that
18 same year, operations were moved to Longview after the Stemco
19 Corporation became the owner of Skeeter; in subsequent years, the
20 company has been associated with other leading firms in the
21 recreational sports industry, including the Coleman Company and the
22 Yamaha Marine Company; and

23 WHEREAS, Innovation has continued to be a hallmark of this
24 Texas corporation, with Skeeter helping to introduce

1 groundbreaking elements such as the V-bottom hull and boat designs
2 that are compatible with the ever more powerful motors being
3 developed by engine manufacturers; in the 1990s, the company was
4 one of the first to market a boat made from the technologically
5 advanced composite materials that had been initially used in the
6 aerospace industry; Skeeter has also designed popular craft that
7 are used by walleye and inland bay anglers, while remaining a
8 leading name in bass fishing; and

9 WHEREAS, Skeeter settled into its longtime home in Kilgore in
10 the early 1970s, where it continues to build its exceptional
11 products; today, Skeeter is the only bass boat manufacturer in the
12 State of Texas, and its many decades of producing superior fishing
13 craft have made it a well-respected member of the state's business
14 community and a source of homegrown pride to several generations of
15 Lone Star fishermen; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
17 hereby congratulate Skeeter Products on its 60th anniversary and
18 extend best wishes to the company's management and staff for
19 continued success; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for Skeeter Products as an expression of high regard by the
22 Texas House of Representatives and Senate.