

By: Flynn

H.C.R. No. 55

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Town markets were essential to the development of
2 Texas during the late 1800s and early 1900s, serving as important
3 hubs of economic activity for communities all across the state; and

4 WHEREAS, Today, that tradition lives on at numerous events,
5 but one market in particular, the World Famous First Monday Trade
6 Days in Canton, is especially noteworthy, being widely recognized
7 as one of the oldest and largest events of its kind; and

8 WHEREAS, Canton's market traces its origins to the 1850s,
9 when a circuit judge began holding court in the town on the first
10 Monday of each month; the proceedings drew numerous people to town,
11 and they used that opportunity to trade produce, farm equipment,
12 and livestock with one another; as the gathering became well-known
13 throughout Van Zandt County and beyond, participants converged on
14 Canton to barter for all manner of goods, with dogs and horses being
15 part of many of the exchanges; as a result, the market acquired the
16 nicknames "Dog Monday" and "Hoss Monday"; and

17 WHEREAS, With the passing years, the market's farm-oriented
18 products gave way to items such as antiques, collectibles,
19 furniture, and crafts; originally held in the courthouse square,
20 the event had grown so large by the mid-1960s that it moved to a
21 six-acre area two blocks away; the number of market days held each
22 month also expanded, initially incorporating the preceding weekend
23 days and now taking place Thursday through Sunday in advance of the
24 first Monday; and

1 WHEREAS, The popularity and size of First Monday Trade Days
2 have continued to grow in recent decades; today, it encompasses
3 more than 7,000 indoor and outdoor vendor spaces spread over 500
4 acres; as many as 400,000 people arrive for each monthly event,
5 transforming a small town of 3,600 permanent residents into a
6 sizeable city; and

7 WHEREAS, Those who make their way to the trade days find a
8 huge range of items for sale and also enjoy a shopping experience
9 that is in keeping with the historic character of the market; since
10 First Monday began 150 years ago, individuals have gathered in
11 Canton to take part in a personalized form of commerce where they
12 have the opportunity to spend time with vendors, artisans, and
13 fellow shoppers; the continuation of this time-honored tradition is
14 a fitting tribute to our state's commercial heritage, and it is
15 indeed deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
17 hereby designate Canton as the official Home of the World Famous
18 First Monday Trade Days.