

By: Chisum

H.C.R. No. 122

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Texas is home to a diverse population of animals,  
2 and through the centuries these creatures have become important  
3 touchstones for the state's human residents, serving as poignant  
4 symbols of the changing seasons and as reminders of the epic beauty  
5 of the natural world; and

6           WHEREAS, The residents of Lipscomb County have found special  
7 significance in a member of the bird species, the turkey buzzard,  
8 which each year returns to the area, heralding the coming of spring  
9 as it soars once more over the wide open spaces of the Texas  
10 Panhandle; and

11           WHEREAS, Also known as the turkey vulture, this distinctive  
12 bird is immediately recognizable by its bald red head and the  
13 two-toned coloring visible on the underside of its broad wings; the  
14 buzzards migrate into Lipscomb County and other parts of the Great  
15 Plains during the warmer part of the year, and their arrival is a  
16 much-anticipated event, prompting residents to hold contests to  
17 guess the exact date that the birds will first be sighted circling  
18 overhead in the vast blue sky; and

19           WHEREAS, A timeless emblem of the region, the turkey buzzard  
20 flew above the northern Texas landscape when it was traversed by the  
21 Apaches, Kiowas, and Comanches, and the species maintained its  
22 lofty vigil as ranchers and farmers established new lives on the  
23 frontier and expansive fields of wheat spread to the horizon; the  
24 German-Russian immigrants who arrived in the early 1900s paused

1 their farmwork to watch the birds sailing the air currents, as did  
2 the roughnecks who helped drill the county's first oil wells in the  
3 1950s; and

4         WHEREAS, Today, county residents and visitors alike continue  
5 to enjoy the impressive sight of the turkey buzzards as they stand  
6 atop their morning roosts with wings spread wide, drying their  
7 feathers in preparation for hours of flight; at day's end, the  
8 vultures again draw an audience as they glide through the twilight  
9 to settle in the treetops; and

10         WHEREAS, These majestic birds, together with other abundant  
11 species such as wild turkey, quail, and deer, make the county  
12 popular with bird-watchers, photographers, and artists; moreover,  
13 the turkey buzzard has become a beloved icon of Lipscomb County that  
14 alludes to the area's rich natural and human history, and this  
15 status is indeed deserving of official recognition; now, therefore,  
16 be it

17         RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas  
18 hereby designate Lipscomb County as the official Turkey Buzzard  
19 Capital of Texas.