

By: Farney

H.C.R. No. 53

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Of all the Lone Star State's unique culinary dishes,
2 perhaps none say "Texas" more sweetly than pecan pie; and

3 WHEREAS, The pecan tree, which was officially designated as
4 the State Tree in 1919, is indigenous to North America and native to
5 152 counties in Texas, where it grows in river valleys; the State
6 Health Nut, the pecan is the state's only commercially grown nut,
7 and Texas pecan growers account for more than 20 percent of all the
8 pecans grown in the United States; and

9 WHEREAS, Though there are many ways to enjoy pecans, it is
10 practically a given among Texans that they belong, first and
11 foremost, in a pie; the earliest record of this distinctive dessert
12 dates to the late 19th century; the weekly humor magazine *Texas*
13 *Siftings* described it in February 1886 as being "not only
14 delicious" but "capable of being made into a 'real state pie,'" and
15 in March 1914, the *Christian Science Monitor* featured a recipe for
16 "Texas Pecan Pie" with a custard filling that called for a cup of
17 sweet milk, a cup of sugar, three well-beaten eggs, a tablespoon of
18 flour, and half a cup of "finely chopped pecan meats"; and

19 WHEREAS, It was around 1930 when the pie became the
20 syrup-based creation it is today; the wife of an executive at the
21 Karo Syrup company combined that product with pecans to make a pie,
22 and it proved to be an irresistible mixture; the pie subsequently
23 gained national recognition through advertisements forever linking
24 the syrup with pecans in the public's mind; recipes for pecan pie

1 began appearing in such popular cookbooks as *The Joy of Cooking* and
2 *The Fannie Farmer Cookbook* in the 1940s, and it became a staple in
3 restaurants across the state and nation; and

4 WHEREAS, Pecan pie recipes are varied and numerous, with
5 differences regarding the sugar-to-syrup ratio and the size and
6 consistency of the nuts, and are a matter of debate, strong opinion,
7 and deeply held family tradition; yet Texans generally agree on two
8 things: Texas pecan pies are, hands down, the best, especially when
9 made with Texas pecans by a Texan, and secondly, whether served hot
10 or cold, with a scoop of ice cream or without, pecan pie is indeed
11 the perfect ending to any meal; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
13 hereby designate pecan pie as the official State Pie of Texas.