

By: Button

H.C.R. No. 96

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The cowboy hat has long been associated with
2 residents of the Lone Star State, and for many years, the city of
3 Garland has been home to the leading manufacturers of this
4 emblematic Texan headgear; and

5 WHEREAS, John B. Stetson first invented the hat that came to
6 be known as the "Boss of the Plains" in 1865, and in 1927, a Michigan
7 investor named E. R. Byer and a hatmaker named Harry Rolnick
8 founded the Byer-Rolnick company in Dallas to manufacture the brand
9 of cowboy hat called Resistol, for its ability to resist all
10 weathers; and

11 WHEREAS, Thanks to a growing demand, Byer-Rolnick opened a
12 larger factory in Garland in 1938, where Resistol hats have been
13 made ever since; Stetsons are now made in Garland as well, along
14 with the western fashion hats made by the Charlie 1 Horse Hat
15 Company; all three companies are part of Hatco, which is
16 headquartered in Garland and employs nearly 400 people; and

17 WHEREAS, The concentration of hat-making talent in Garland
18 has led to the formation of several other companies; Master Hatters
19 of Texas was founded in 1968 by a former Byer-Rolnick employee,
20 William Cook, and the Milano Hat Company, founded by John Milano in
21 1983, opened a new facility in 2006; Dallas Hats has been making
22 palm leaf and raffia cowboy hats in the city since 1989; and

23 WHEREAS, Garland is also home to the Dallas County
24 Manufacturing Association and the Garland Chamber of Commerce, and

1 their essential contributions to the community's
2 manufacturing-minded environment make the city an ideal location
3 for businesses of all sorts; and

4 WHEREAS, The production of cowboy hats contributes not only
5 to the Texas economy, but to the rich cultural history of our state,
6 and the city of Garland may indeed take great pride in its central
7 role in the design and manufacture of this iconic Texas product;
8 now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
10 hereby designate Garland as the Cowboy Hat Capital of Texas.