

By: Hilderbran

H.R. No. 2595

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In 1852, in spite of the danger posed by Indian raids
2 at the time, a group of entrepreneurs acquired land on a
3 cypress-lined bend in the Medina River; the following year, members
4 of the group surveyed the town of Bandera and opened a sawmill and
5 commissary; the town quickly became a thriving settlement due to
6 the success of the founders' water-powered lumber mill; and

7 WHEREAS, In the years that followed, local farmers and
8 ranchers prospered, supplying products to United States Cavalry
9 troops at Camp Verde, raising and ginning cotton, and raising
10 cattle, sheep, and goats; and

11 WHEREAS, In the 1870s, as the threat of Indian attack
12 receded, the county became a staging area for cattle drives and the
13 population grew markedly; it is estimated that between 1874 and
14 1894, 7 to 10 million longhorns and one million horses were driven
15 by 30,000 cowboys to a staging area near Bandera, a major gathering
16 point connecting with the Western Trail; during this time, Bandera
17 became known as a place where cowboys could relax and buy supplies;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Dude ranching began in 1920 when the Buck Ranch took
20 in paying summer guests, with the Bruce Ranch taking the overflow;
21 in the 1930s, the dude ranching industry continued to expand and
22 over 30 dude ranches were operating near Bandera; and

23 WHEREAS, Rodeos began in the 1920s when cowboys who worked on
24 ranches displayed their skills at roundups and on cattle drives;

1 the first advertised rodeo near Bandera was held at Mansfield Park
2 in 1924; Bandera cowboys became rodeo world champions and were
3 inducted into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame; and

4 WHEREAS, The citizens of Bandera are heirs to a rich western
5 heritage; today this charming town remains a living testament to
6 the courage, talent, and vision of the men and women who shaped the
7 Old West; since 1920 the community has been a popular tourist
8 destination, each year drawing visitors from around the state and
9 beyond to attractions that include area resorts, dude ranches,
10 rodeo venues, and hunting and camping areas; and

11 WHEREAS, The wild and rugged western town of Bandera
12 displayed the qualities and history of its self-proclaimed cowboy
13 capital status long before the first printed reference naming it
14 the "Cowboy Capital of the World" in 1948; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
16 Legislature hereby recognize the rich history of Bandera and pay
17 tribute to its citizens' many contributions to the Lone Star State.