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H.C.R. No. 35

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Of all the Lone Star State's unique items of
2 headwear that Texans have used to adorn their heads, perhaps none
3 says "Texan" more fashionably than the Cowboy Hat; and

4 WHEREAS, The heritage of the Lone Star State is closely
5 associated with images of cowboys and the western frontier, and
6 these elements are reflected in several of the current Texas
7 symbols, including rodeo, the official state sport, and the
8 longhorn, the state large mammal; and

9 WHEREAS, Broad-brimmed hats with high crowns can be seen
10 being worn by nomadic warriors like the Mongolian Horsemen as far
11 back as the 13th century; the hats made their way to Europe where
12 they were adopted by the Spaniards in the 15th and 16th centuries;
13 the Spaniards brought the hats to the New World where the style was
14 embraced by the horsemen and cattle herders of Spanish Mexico
15 called "vaqueros" and blended with other styles such as the
16 "sombrero"; and

17 WHEREAS, The emergence of the cowboy in the southwestern
18 United States in the 19th century secured the cowboy hat's place in
19 history; the hats varied in style and material while maintaining a
20 wide brim and high crown; the wide brim provided the face, neck, and
21 shoulders of the wearer shade from the sun and cover from the rain
22 while enduring the elements on a ranch or cattle drive; and

23 WHEREAS, The modern cowboy hat's development is credited to
24 John B. Stetson, who crafted a hat by hand out of felt made from

1 animal skins in 1865; the hat became known as the "Boss of the
2 Plains" and this style of hat was popularized through the late 19th
3 and early 20th centuries; and

4 WHEREAS, The cowboy hat continued to gain notoriety both for
5 its utility to the wearer and for its fashionable appeal; it became
6 common to see presidents, governors, singers and musicians, movie
7 stars, athletes, and the average Texan wearing a cowboy hat; the hat
8 even became a required item of a Department of Public Safety
9 Trooper's uniform and an approved part of the Texas Ranger's
10 uniform; and

11 WHEREAS, An essential piece of clothing for a cowboy on a
12 cattle drive, a Texas Trooper on duty, or a fashion accessory that
13 can be personalized by shape and material, the cowboy hat reflects
14 the individualism that is so much a part of the Texan identity,
15 elegant in its appearance while maintaining practicality in its
16 function; classy, yet sensible, modern and esteemed, the cowboy hat
17 has stood the test of time, while enduring the elements, cattle
18 drives, and modern fashion trends and continuing to exhibit a sense
19 of style and dignified appearance; and

20 WHEREAS, The cowboy hat symbolizes both the state's iconic
21 western culture and the uniqueness of its residents, and it is
22 indeed appropriate that this stylish and dignified apparel receive
23 special legislative recognition; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
25 hereby designate the cowboy hat as the official State Hat of Texas.