

By: Sheffield

H.C.R. No. 39

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Proud residents of Hico celebrated the city's 11th
2 annual Texas Steak Cookoff in 2014, and the continuing success of
3 this popular festival makes the community deserving of designation
4 as the official Steak Capital of Texas; and

5 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of then Mayor Stan Bundy, the
6 city staged its first steak cook-off in May 2004, with 15
7 participating cooks; the following year, the Hico Economic
8 Development Corporation took over management of the event, and by
9 year three, the festival had grown to include five professional
10 chefs, 16 backyard cooks, a number of vendors, and several
11 wineries, drawing some 2,000 guests; and

12 WHEREAS, By 2008, Hico's cook-off had nearly doubled in size
13 from its start, and the gathering was featured on the Food Network
14 cable channel; since then, the festival has grown steadily, and it
15 now attracts more than 100 cooks, 15 wineries, 70 vendors, and
16 over 6,500 guests each year for a variety of activities that include
17 a wine tasting and VIP dinner, as well as the signature contest to
18 choose the cooker of the "Best Steak in Texas"; and

19 WHEREAS, The proceeds from the Texas Steak Cookoff directly
20 benefit the community, helping the Hico EDC support such notable
21 organizations and initiatives as the Civic Club, the Memorial
22 Scholarship Foundation, and construction of an outdoor stage in the
23 city park; the festival has also attracted corporate sponsors, and
24 the weekend results in a 12 to 14 percent rise in retail sales for

1 local businesses each year; and

2 WHEREAS, In hosting the largest event of its kind in the
3 state, the city of Hico brings together talented professional and
4 amateur chefs in a spirited competition enjoyed by residents and
5 tourists alike while highlighting the ongoing importance of beef to
6 the economy and culture of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be
7 it

8 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
9 hereby designate Hico as the official Steak Capital of Texas.