

By: Bohac

H.C.R. No. 42

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, The cowboy hat has long been one of the defining  
2 symbols of the culture and history of Texas, representative of the  
3 state's wide open spaces and its spirit of freedom and  
4 self-reliance; and

5           WHEREAS, For centuries, horsemen have worn broad-brimmed  
6 hats to keep the sun off their faces, but the distinctive American  
7 cowboy hat, with its high crown and wide brim, dates from the  
8 mid-19th century, when John Batterson Stetson invented the hat  
9 known as the "Boss of the Plains" in 1865; and

10           WHEREAS, Since then, the cowboy hat has been made of felt,  
11 straw, and even leather, and it has been adapted into many different  
12 styles as well as adorned with bows, buckles, decorative hat bands,  
13 and feathers; some hats feature turned-up brims to make using a  
14 lariat easier, while others feature "stampede strings" to keep them  
15 from being blown off when riding at speed; and

16           WHEREAS, Over the past 150 years, the hat has become the  
17 ultimate symbol of the Lone Star State in popular culture, worn  
18 proudly by native Texans such as Tommy Lee Jones in *Lonesome Dove*,  
19 or by stars playing iconic Texans, such as John Wayne in *The*  
20 *Searchers*, Chuck Norris in *Walker, Texas Ranger*, and Taylor Kitsch  
21 in *Friday Night Lights*; Texas musicians from Bob Wills to Willie  
22 Nelson to Selena have all taken the stage in cowboy hats, and the  
23 hat has likewise been worn by a host of prominent Texas politicians,  
24 including Lyndon Johnson, Ann Richards, and George W. Bush; and

1           WHEREAS, The cowboy hat is worn to work every day by countless  
2 cowboys and ranchers, as well as Texas Rangers and county sheriffs;  
3 a unique expression of Lone Star style, the cowboy hat can also be  
4 seen atop the Kilgore Rangerettes, high school students dressed up  
5 for the senior prom, and professionals from all walks of life; and

6           WHEREAS, Around the world, whenever people picture a Texan,  
7 they see a man or a woman wearing a cowboy hat, and that image has  
8 become as emblematic of the Lone Star State as slow-roasted  
9 brisket, the Texas two-step, and the Alamo; now, therefore, be it

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