

By: White of Tyler

H.C.R. No. 69

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The annual migration of the monarch butterfly, the
2 State Insect of Texas, is one of the wonders of the natural world,
3 and every year the city of Jasper is fortunate to have a front row
4 seat to this spectacular journey; and

5 WHEREAS, Each August and September, members of the species,
6 known scientifically as *Danaus plexippus*, begin a journey of
7 approximately 1,500 miles from their summer breeding grounds in
8 eastern North America to their winter home in the mountains of
9 central Mexico, generally covering 25 to 30 miles per day; then,
10 between March and June, the butterflies return north, often
11 traveling as far as Canada; along their flight northward, and after
12 the monarchs reach their summer haunts, the female of the species
13 lays her eggs on freshly sprouted milkweed plants; and

14 WHEREAS, Jasper lies in the middle of one of the three major
15 flyways for the monarch butterfly, and the community celebrates its
16 part in this annual event with the Butterfly Festival on the first
17 Saturday of each October, during the height of the fall migration;
18 during the festival, a Butterfly House is installed in the
19 Butterfly Gardens at the Jasper Arboretum, where visitors can learn
20 about the migration and life cycle of these amazing insects; the
21 festival also features a variety of activities for children and
22 adults, including scavenger hunts and butterfly releases, as well
23 as musical performances and displays of arts and crafts; and

24 WHEREAS, The Butterfly Festival is part of an even broader

1 local effort focused on the monarch butterfly; residents of Jasper
2 have devoted countless hours to fostering our understanding of
3 monarchs and to creating conditions to support their survival; led
4 by the city's Master Gardeners, they are tagging monarchs for
5 scientific study, raising monarchs for release, planting milkweed
6 where the butterflies can lay their eggs, and growing a variety of
7 nectar plants to provide the monarchs with suitable food; and

8 WHEREAS, Each year, the people of Jasper are fortunate
9 witnesses to one of the grandest shows in nature, and by creating a
10 welcoming environment for these beautiful creatures, they help to
11 make their community an integral part of a wonderful natural
12 process that has endured for millennia; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
14 hereby designate the city of Jasper as the official Butterfly
15 Capital of Texas.