

By: Guillen

H.C.R. No. 76

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, For nearly a century, the South Texas community of
2 Poteet has been known across the Lone Star State as a source of
3 delicious strawberries and as the host of a renowned annual
4 strawberry festival; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1911, city founders Henry and Ida Mumme began to
6 grow strawberries in their kitchen garden, and within 10 years, the
7 community's strawberry crop had become one of its most successful
8 products; local citizens invited residents of nearby San Antonio to
9 sample the town's strawberries in 1921, and the *San Antonio*
10 *Express-News* ran a story headlined "Crimson Berries Beckon Hungry
11 Tourists to Poteet"; and

12 WHEREAS, Building on the city's reputation, the Poteet Rotary
13 Club staged the first Poteet Strawberry Festival in April 1948,
14 hoping to provide an incentive for veterans of World War II to
15 return to area farms; the club also promoted more careful packing of
16 the crop so that each buyer would receive a uniform pint, flat, or
17 crate of berries; and

18 WHEREAS, Over the course of the past 67 years, the festival
19 has grown to become one of the signature springtime events in South
20 Texas, drawing 100,000 visitors and contributing up to \$12 million
21 to the local economy each year; in addition to the strawberries
22 themselves, the popular gathering features live country music, a
23 rodeo, and a food show and auction; and

24 WHEREAS, The Poteet Strawberry Festival Association has also

1 presented college scholarships to deserving local students for the
2 past two decades; it currently gives away 10 scholarships each
3 year, while many of the more than 30 churches, schools, and civic
4 organizations that participate in the festival donate scholarships
5 as well; and

6 WHEREAS, This sweet, juicy, and colorful fruit is a delight
7 to behold and to taste, and for many years, the citizens of Poteet
8 have made the strawberry both a source of prosperity and a cause for
9 celebration; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
11 hereby designate Poteet as the official Strawberry Capital of
12 Texas; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
14 [391.003\(e\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
15 until the 10th anniversary of its designation.