

By: Parker

H.C.R. No. 130

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, John Wayne is the prototypical American hero,
2 symbolizing such traits as self-reliance, grace under pressure,
3 resolve, and patriotism; and

4 WHEREAS, Born Marion Robert Morrison on May 26, 1907, in
5 Winterset, Iowa, he moved with his parents as a young boy to
6 California; in 1916, while the family was living in Glendale, he
7 began going by "Duke," a nickname that followed him throughout his
8 life; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1925, he began attending the University of
10 Southern California on a football scholarship, playing offensive
11 lineman; after breaking his collarbone in a surfing accident before
12 his junior year, he withdrew from the university and found
13 employment with Fox Film Corporation as a laborer moving set props
14 and as an occasional extra in movies; and

15 WHEREAS, While working at the studio, he met Wyatt Earp, who
16 was serving as a consultant to Western film director John Ford, and
17 he subsequently adopted some of Earp's mannerisms for his roles as a
18 cowboy; and

19 WHEREAS, The first film in which he appeared as the leading
20 actor was *The Big Trail*, released in 1930; it was then that the
21 studio gave him the screen name "John Wayne," which he would use for
22 the remainder of his acting career; and

23 WHEREAS, Starring in classic Western films such as
24 *Stagecoach*, *Red River*, *The Searchers*, and *True Grit*, Wayne

1 personified the archetypal cowboy who is rough-edged and
2 plainspoken, but who is also capable of great warmth, kindness, and
3 generosity; he won an Oscar in 1970 for Best Actor for his role as
4 Rooster Cogburn in *True Grit*; and

5 WHEREAS, Although best known for his Westerns, John Wayne
6 starred in many movies in other genres, such as the World War II
7 films *Flying Tigers* and *Sands of Iwo Jima*; and

8 WHEREAS, Wayne was an avid supporter of the United States
9 military and toured bases and hospitals in the South Pacific in 1943
10 and 1944 with the United Service Organizations; and

11 WHEREAS, In *The Alamo*, his first film as a director, John
12 Wayne played the role of Davy Crockett; the film won an Oscar
13 nomination in 1961 for Best Picture; Wayne also directed and
14 starred in *The Green Berets*, which was released in 1968 and which
15 was set in Vietnam; and

16 WHEREAS, Over the course of his acting career, John Wayne
17 practically invented the Western hero by combining rugged
18 masculinity with the courage to stand up to authority when
19 necessary, the strength to match any opponent, and the
20 determination to prevail against great odds; John Wayne endures as
21 a cultural icon, and his films continue to appeal to new audiences;
22 now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
24 hereby designate May 26 as John Wayne Day; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That in accordance with the provisions of Section
26 [391.004\(d\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
27 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally

1 passed by the legislature.