

By: Seliger

S.C.R. No. 22

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In 1877, Charles Goodnight became the manager of the
3 JA Ranch in the Caprock Canyonlands of the Texas Panhandle; the
4 once-great bison herds of the area had been slaughtered almost to
5 the point of extinction; at the urging of his wife, Mary Ann,
6 Goodnight rounded up enough of the creatures to form a small herd,
7 which allowed the Southern Plains Bison population to survive; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1880, Goodnight acquired the Lazy F Ranch and
9 renamed it "Quitaque," which he believed was an Indian word for "end
10 of the trail"; Quitaque is located on State Highway 86 in
11 southeastern Briscoe County; when the county was organized in 1892,
12 the townsite of Quitaque was surveyed and platted; and

13 WHEREAS, Caprock Canyons State Park, located approximately
14 three miles north of Quitaque, was acquired from the estate of
15 Theodore Geisler in May 1975; the park opened in 1982 and is the
16 third-largest state park in Texas; and

17 WHEREAS, The park is home to the "Official State Bison Herd of
18 Texas"; these bison are direct descendants of the last free-range
19 Southern Plains Bison that the Goodnights saved from extinction;
20 the herd was donated to the park in 1996 by the JA Ranch, which is
21 the oldest privately owned ranch in the Texas Panhandle; and

22 WHEREAS, For many years, the citizens of Quitaque encouraged
23 the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to establish a state park in
24 the Quitaque area and encouraged the donation of the JA Ranch Bison

1 Herd to the state park; and

2 WHEREAS, O. R. Stark Jr., born in Quitaque, understood the
3 need for a friends group for Caprock Canyons State Park and
4 Trailway; he was instrumental in forming Caprock Partners
5 Foundation in 1996 and served as foundation president until his
6 death; the foundation has supported the park and its historic bison
7 habitat as environmental and recreational treasures; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
10 hereby designate the City of Quitaque to be the official Bison
11 Capital of Texas; and, be it further

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