

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The year 2017 marks the 150th anniversary of the
2 Chisholm Trail, the major cattle-drive route from Texas to Kansas
3 that was used from 1867 to 1884; and

4 WHEREAS, In the mid-1800s, Texas was home to millions of
5 longhorn cattle, many of them roaming freely on sparsely populated
6 rangeland; there was a growing demand for beef in other parts of the
7 United States, but Texans lacked an easy means of getting the cattle
8 to market because rail routes between the Lone Star State and the
9 eastern United States had yet to be established; early attempts to
10 drive longhorns to Missouri and Kansas were halted when those
11 states closed their borders to the cattle to prevent transmission
12 of a deadly livestock disease, though the Texas cattle were later
13 allowed to traverse a less-populated part of Kansas; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1867, Illinois entrepreneur Joseph G. McCoy
15 solved the dilemma by persuading the Kansas Pacific Railway to lay a
16 spur to the small town of Abilene, Kansas, where he built a hotel,
17 stockyard, office, and bank; he advertised the availability of the
18 railhead throughout Texas, and O. W. Wheeler and his partners drove
19 the first 2,400 steers to Abilene from San Antonio in 1867,
20 traveling north through Texas and across the Indian Territory that
21 later became the state of Oklahoma; and

22 WHEREAS, Some 35,000 cattle were shipped through Abilene in
23 the first year and the total doubled annually until 1871, reaching a
24 peak of 600,000; the popular route from Texas was originally known

1 by such names as the Kansas Trail, the Abilene Trail, or McCoy's
2 Trail; the name Chisholm Trail was initially used only for the
3 section north of the Red River, but it was soon applied to the
4 entire path from the Rio Grande to Abilene and, later, to other
5 towns in Kansas; and

6 WHEREAS, Typically beginning in the early spring, the cattle
7 drives traveled north along the trail, taking three to four months
8 to reach Kansas; the herds moved at a pace of 10 to 12 miles a day,
9 guided by a crew that was often made up of a dozen or more people,
10 including a trail boss, cowboys, and a chuck wagon cook; a day on
11 the trail could contain the excitement and danger of stampedes and
12 river crossings as well as many hours of hard and dusty work that
13 was a good deal less dramatic; and

14 WHEREAS, The trail ultimately moved more than five million
15 cattle and one million mustangs, playing a crucial role in reviving
16 the Texas economy after the Civil War; the expansion of the
17 railroads, the growing settlement of the Plains, and the
18 establishment of new livestock quarantines brought an end to the
19 cattle drives in the mid-1880s, but during its years of operation,
20 the Chisholm Trail gained a special place in Western lore, and it
21 remains a source of fascination today; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
23 Legislature hereby commemorate the 150th anniversary of the
24 Chisholm Trail.

Anderson of McLennan

Straus	Goldman	Oliverson
Allen	Gonzales of Williamson	Ortega
Alonzo	González of El Paso	Paddie
Alvarado	Gooden	Parker
Anchia	Guerra	Paul
Anderson of Dallas	Guillen	Perez
Anderson of McLennan	Gutierrez	Phelan
Arévalo	Hefner	Phillips
Ashby	Hernandez	Pickett
Bailes	Herrero	Price
Bell	Hinojosa	Raney
Bernal	Holland	Raymond
Biedermann	Howard	Reynolds
Blanco	Huberty	Rinaldi
Bohac	Hunter	Roberts
Bonnen of Brazoria	Isaac	Rodriguez of Bexar
Bonnen of Galveston	Israel	Rodriguez of Travis
Burkett	Johnson of Dallas	Romero, Jr.
Burns	Johnson of Harris	Rose
Burrows	Kacal	Sanford
Button	Keough	Schaefer
Cain	King of Hemphill	Schofield
Canales	King of Parker	Schubert
Capriglione	King of Uvalde	Shaheen
Clardy	Klick	Sheffield
Coleman	Koop	Shine
Collier	Krause	Simmons
Cook	Kuempel	Smithee
Cortez	Lambert	Springer
Cosper	Landgraf	Stephenson
Craddick	Lang	Stickland
Cyrier	Larson	Stucky
Dale	Laubenberg	Swanson
Darby	Leach	Thierry
Davis of Dallas	Longoria	Thompson of Brazoria
Davis of Harris	Lozano	Thompson of Harris
Dean	Lucio III	Tinderholt
Deshotel	Martinez	Turner
Dukes	Metcalf	Uresti
Dutton	Meyer	VanDeaver
Elkins	Miller	Villalba
Faircloth	Minjarez	Vo
Fallon	Moody	Walle
Farrar	Morrison	White
Flynn	Muñoz, Jr.	Wilson
Frank	Murphy	Workman
Frullo	Murr	Wray
Geren	Neave	Wu
Gervin-Hawkins	Nevárez	Zedler
Giddings	Oliveira	Zerwas

H.R. No. 1087

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1087 was adopted by the House on March 27, 2017, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House