By: Huffines, Kolkhorst

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S.C.R. No. 8

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Throughout the long and colorful history of Texas, 3 the cannon has been an important weapon in the state's fight for 4 liberty and independence as well as a symbol of the defiance and 5 determination of its people; and

WHEREAS, The very first conflict of the Texas Revolution, the 6 7 Battle of Gonzales, was fought over a cannon; on October 2, 1835, the 150 Texian rebels at Gonzales refused to surrender their bronze 8 9 six-pounder to Mexican dragoons; they pointed instead to the cannon and declared, "Come and take it!"; during the ensuing battle, this 10 11 memorable catchphrase and a painted image of the cannon itself were raised on a makeshift flag that was created by the women of 12 Gonzales; the legendary flag has since become one of the iconic 13 images of the Lone Star State; and 14

16 largest artillery contingent west of the Mississippi, an assortment of 18 to 21 artillery pieces, and after the Mexican army captured 17 the fort, the cannons were destroyed or abandoned nearby; when the 18 Alamo was avenged six weeks later by the Texian victory at the 19 20 Battle of San Jacinto, the famous Twin Sisters, two six-pounders that had been donated to the rebellion by the people of Cincinnati, 21 22 Ohio, played a decisive role in the defeat of Santa Anna's army; and WHEREAS, A cannon featured in a memorable incident in the 23

WHEREAS, In 1836, the defenders of the Alamo boasted the

early years of the Texas Republic; in 1842, Austin residents feared

- 1 that President Sam Houston wanted to move the republic's capital
- 2 from Austin to Houston, and when he sent Texas Rangers to take the
- 3 government's archives, an Austin innkeeper named Angelina Eberly
- 4 fired off a cannon on the corner of Sixth Street and Congress
- 5 Avenue, rousing the city's population and blowing a hole in the
- 6 General Land Office; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Today, vintage artillery pieces can be seen at
- 8 county courthouses, military installations, and historical sites
- 9 across Texas; two 24-pound howitzers made especially for the new
- 10 republic by Major General Thomas Jefferson Chambers in the 1830s
- 11 guard the south entrance of the Texas Capitol, while two 12-pound
- 12 field guns and a wrought iron cannon are also situated on the
- 13 Capitol grounds; a cannon reputed to be the "Come and Take It" gun
- 14 is on exhibit at the Gonzales Memorial Museum, a cannon used by
- 15 Colonel James Fannin at the Battle of Coleto Creek is displayed in a
- 16 park in Goliad, and a bronze cannon believed to have been used at
- 17 the Alamo is on permanent loan to the Shrine of Texas Liberty by the
- 18 San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy; and
- 19 WHEREAS, The firing of a cannon continues to be an honored
- 20 tradition at celebrations and commemorations across Texas; cannons
- 21 help recreate Texas history, such as the fieldpiece fired for
- 22 visitors by the "Living History" reenactors at the Fort Davis
- 23 National Historical Site; and
- 24 WHEREAS, These historic weapons serve as powerful reminders
- 25 of our state's epic struggle for freedom, and they further
- 26 highlight the unique heritage shared by all those who are proud to
- 27 call Texas home; now, therefore, be it

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- 1 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
- $2\,\,$  hereby designate the cannon as the official state gun of Texas.