

By: Cyrier

H.R. No. 706

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Norma Frances "Tootsie" Tomanetz has entered the
2 pantheon of Texas barbecue legends as the pit master of Snow's BBQ
3 in Lexington; and

4 WHEREAS, A veteran with a half century of barbecuing
5 experience, Tootsie Tomanetz began learning the craft in 1966, when
6 she was 31 years old; her husband, Edward Tomanetz, worked for City
7 Meat Market in Giddings, and when one of the barbecue cooks failed
8 to show up one day, the market's owner, Hershel Doyle, asked
9 Mrs. Tomanetz to step in; in the years that followed, she was
10 tutored by legendary pit master Orange Holloway; and

11 WHEREAS, A decade later, Mr. Doyle bought a meat market in
12 Lexington and asked Mrs. Tomanetz to run it, and the following
13 year, she and her husband bought the business; while Mr. Tomanetz
14 ran the family farm, Mrs. Tomanetz operated the meat market, and
15 she began smoking and selling barbecue every Saturday morning as a
16 sideline, steadily building an impressive local reputation for her
17 delicious fare; and

18 WHEREAS, When her husband became ill in 1996, Mrs. Tomanetz
19 sold the business that she had run for 20 years in order to care for
20 him; after Mr. Tomanetz recovered, she began barbecuing again every
21 Saturday morning for the meat market's new owners, who named the
22 business Always Tootsie's in her honor; and

23 WHEREAS, In March 2003, Mrs. Tomanetz was recruited by Kerry
24 Bexley to serve as pit master at a new Lexington business, Snow's

1 BBQ; though open only on Saturday from 8 a.m. until the meat runs
2 out, Snow's soon became widely renowned, and it was named the best
3 barbecue joint in the state by *Texas Monthly* in 2008 and again in
4 2017; feature stories in the *New Yorker* and numerous other media
5 outlets have added to Mrs. Tomanetz's fame, and she has become one
6 of the best-known barbecue cooks in the world; in 2018, she was a
7 semifinalist for the prestigious James Beard Award; and

8 WHEREAS, Every Saturday, this remarkable Texan still arrives
9 at Snow's at 2 a.m. and starts heating the pits and preparing the
10 meat; drawn by her reputation, barbecue aficionados from miles
11 around congregate each weekend in Lexington, where they wait in
12 line for as long as two hours to sample the world-class brisket,
13 sausage, pork, turkey, and chicken, and to share a few words with
14 Mrs. Tomanetz; and

15 WHEREAS, The barbecue pit master is an iconic figure in the
16 history and culture of the Lone Star State, and Tootsie Tomanetz has
17 become one of the best and most celebrated practitioners of this
18 proud tradition; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
20 Legislature hereby honor Norma Frances "Tootsie" Tomanetz for her
21 exceptional achievements as a barbecue pit master and extend to her
22 sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for Mrs. Tomanetz as an expression of high regard by the
25 Texas House of Representatives.