SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Forever associated with Jim Bowie and the heroic
Battle of the Alamo, the Bowie knife has long been a vivid and
colorful symbol of the history and heritage of Texas; and

WHEREAS, It is thought that the first Bowie knife was made by
Rezin Bowie, Jim's brother, during the 1820s, when the two siblings
were in business together in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana; after Jim
was involved in a gunfight, Rezin gave him the large hunting knife
for personal protection, and in September 1827, in the chaotic
aftermath of a duel near Natchez, Mississippi, Jim used it to stab
an assailant who was trying to kill him; the story of the "Sandbar
Fight" ensured Jim's reputation as a deadly knife fighter, and all
across the South, men began to ask blacksmiths to make them a knife
like Jim Bowie's; and

WHEREAS, The weapon's fame grew when Jim Bowie took it with
him to Texas, and he and other defenders of the Alamo are thought to
have used the knives during the battle; the Bowie knife later became
popular with the Texas Rangers who served under the legendary Jack
Hays and Ben McCulloch, as well as with Confederate soldiers, who
were known to engrave "Sunny South" and other mottoes on the blades
of their knives; and

WHEREAS, During an era when guns often misfired, the Bowie
knife was a valuable back-up weapon, and schools were set up to
teach the technique of using the blade in a fight; knife makers
throughout the country met the increasing demand by creating versions of the blade, and a journalist in Louisiana wrote that "all the steel in the country, it seemed, was immediately converted into Bowie knives"; they became internationally famous as well, and cutlers in the English steel town of Sheffield began crafting models that featured elaborately etched titles and slogans, such as "Arkansas Toothpick," "Rio Grande Camp Knife," and "Americans Never Surrender"; and

WHEREAS, The blade became less widely used as firearms became more reliable, but it has continued to be popular with hunters and collectors; designs have varied over the years, but today, the Bowie knife typically features a steel blade that is at least an inch and a half wide and eight inches long and between 3/16 and 1/4 inch thick, with a clip point that gives the weapon its distinctive shape; the knife's handle often incorporates an S-shaped guard, with the upper part angled forward so as to catch an opponent's blade during a fight; and

WHEREAS, In 1958, one scholar wrote that "in the history of American arms, three weapons stand out above all the rest: the Kentucky rifle, the Colt's revolver, and the Bowie knife"; since the days of the Alamo, the knife has served as an evocative reminder of Texas' storied past, and it is inextricably linked with the fierce and independent spirit of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designate the Bowie knife as the official state knife of Texas.
President of the Senate  Speaker of the House
I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 7 was adopted by the Senate on April 19, 2021, by a viva-voce vote.

Secretary of the Senate
I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 7 was adopted by the House on May 18, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 1, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House
Approved:

Date

Governor