

1 throughout the country met the increasing demand by creating
2 versions of the blade, and a journalist in Louisiana wrote that "all
3 the steel in the country, it seemed, was immediately converted into
4 Bowie knives"; they became internationally famous as well, and
5 cutlers in the English steel town of Sheffield began crafting
6 models that featured elaborately etched titles and slogans, such as
7 "Arkansas Toothpick," "Rio Grande Camp Knife," and "Americans Never
8 Surrender"; and

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

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

25 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
26 hereby designate the Bowie knife as the official state knife of
27 Texas.