

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, For over half a century, Winnie has been known far
2 and wide as the host of the Texas Rice Festival, a celebration of
3 the local rice harvest and the integral role that the rice industry
4 has played in the area's history, development, and culture; and

5 WHEREAS, First cultivated locally around 1900, rice has long
6 been essential to the regional economy; the Texas Rice Festival
7 originated in 1968 as a special event held by St. Louis Catholic
8 Church of Winnie to commemorate the conclusion of the growing
9 season; its popularity stirred further interest among area farmers,
10 and they banded together to establish the Texas Rice Festival and
11 obtain a charter for the celebration in October 1969; Winnie was
12 selected to be the host town before the inaugural Rice Festival was
13 held on October 3, 1970, and the event has continued to be organized
14 each year around the first weekend of October; and

15 WHEREAS, Five years after the first Rice Festival took place,
16 the board of directors recognized the need for more space to
17 accommodate the growth of the event, and the decision was made to
18 relocate it from downtown Winnie to Winnie-Stowell Park on LeBlanc
19 Road; initially a one-day affair, it has since expanded to multiple
20 days of activities, including parades, musical performances, car
21 and livestock shows, photography and art exhibits, and a barbecue
22 cook-off; the festival also features a slate of pageants, where
23 youth of all ages compete for such titles as Senior Queen, Miss
24 LaPetite, and Little Rice King; moreover, awards are presented to

1 honor the Farmer of the Year and other deserving members of the
2 community; and

3 WHEREAS, The enduring popularity of the Texas Rice Festival
4 is a testament to the pride that local residents take in the rich
5 agricultural heritage of the Winnie area, and the town's connection
6 to the festival and to the tasty and versatile grain that inspired
7 it is indeed deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be
8 it

9 RESOLVED, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas
10 hereby designate Winnie as the official Rice Capital of Texas; and,
11 be it further

12 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section
13 [391.003\(e\)](#), Government Code, this designation remain in effect
14 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally
15 passed by the legislature.

Leo-Wilson

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 42 was adopted by the House on May 2, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 2, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 42 was adopted by the Senate on May 17, 2023, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor