

By: Leo-Wilson

H.C.R. No. 42

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.