

By: Hopper

H.C.R. No. 12

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The grasslands of the Great Plains are an iconic
2 part of the American landscape, evoking the spirit of the sweeping
3 western frontier, and the Lyndon B. Johnson National Grassland and
4 the adjacent city of Alvord provide access to a portion of that
5 majestic landscape in North Texas; and

6 WHEREAS, A vital ecosystem, the grasslands provide a wealth
7 of ecological benefits, including flood prevention, aquifer
8 recharge, erosion control, soil fertilization, and carbon storage,
9 in addition to serving as habitat for a variety of wildlife; despite
10 their value, grasslands have historically been underappreciated,
11 and after decades of agricultural and industrial development, less
12 than 40 percent of the 550 million acres of grasslands that once
13 existed in North America remain intact; and

14 WHEREAS, Texas is fortunate to be home to the Lyndon
15 B. Johnson National Grassland, which encompasses over 20,000 acres
16 in Wise and Montague Counties; the area was established as part of a
17 national initiative in the 1930s to convert sub-marginal farmland
18 into public areas, and it was named in honor of former President
19 Lyndon B. Johnson in 1974; the preserve offers a range of
20 opportunities for outdoor activities, including horseback riding,
21 hiking, camping, and birdwatching; and

22 WHEREAS, The city of Alvord, in northern Wise County, serves
23 as a gateway to the LBJ National Grassland; the community is a short
24 drive from the TADRA Point Trailhead, the main entry to the 75-mile

1 LBJ Multiuse Trail System; this central junction connects all five
2 trails that are part of the network, guiding equestrians, hikers,
3 and cyclists across the breadth of the grassland; and

4 WHEREAS, More than just open spaces, the grasslands of Texas
5 offer significant environmental and recreational benefits,
6 understated beauty, and a living link to our shared heritage, and
7 Alvord's integral role in allowing visitors to enjoy the Lyndon B.
8 Johnson National Grassland is indeed deserving of recognition; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas,
11 1st Called Session, hereby designate Alvord as the official Gateway
12 to the Grasslands; and, be it further

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