

By: Pierson

H.C.R. No. 39

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, For more than 70 years, Rockwall County has been a
2 sought-after destination for brides- and grooms-to-be, and its
3 popularity as a marriage location is known throughout the Lone Star
4 State; and

5 WHEREAS, During the 1940s and 1950s, couples flocked to
6 Rockwall County to tie the knot because of the unique approach that
7 the county took to administrating marriages in that era; a night
8 watchman at the courthouse, Gene Payne, filled in as the deputy
9 county clerk, which allowed marriage licenses to be issued at all
10 hours; in addition, a local doctor kept his office open late to
11 provide the blood tests that were required before a license could be
12 issued; the popularity of Rockwall County as a place to say "I do"
13 was such that justice of the peace Mildred Barnes, one of only a few
14 women in the state to serve in that role at the time, officiated the
15 weddings of more than 6,000 couples from 1952 to 1957; and

16 WHEREAS, The practice of issuing marriage licenses around the
17 clock ended in the 1950s, when the county was required by law to
18 provide this service during regular business hours; nevertheless,
19 the county has remained a top choice for prospective newlyweds
20 drawn by the uncommon beauty and elegance of its marriage
21 certificates, which have long been among the most coveted in the
22 state; the county is further admired for its wide selection of
23 wedding venues that suit a variety of tastes and styles, ranging
24 from luxurious manors to scenic gardens and pastoral ranch venues;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Rockwall County has long served as the setting where
3 couples have shared their vows and embarked upon a momentous
4 journey together, and it is indeed fitting that the county be
5 formally recognized for its special connection to the institution
6 of marriage, both historically and in the present day; now,
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
9 hereby designate Rockwall County as the official Marriage Capital
10 of Texas; and, be it further

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