

By: McLaughlin

H.C.R. No. 55

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, For more than a century, the South Texas community
2 of Poteet has been known across the Lone Star State as a source of
3 delicious strawberries and as the host of a renowned annual
4 strawberry festival; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1911, city founders Henry and Ida Mumme began to
6 grow strawberries in their kitchen garden, and within 10 years, the
7 community's strawberry crop had become one of its most successful
8 products; local citizens invited residents of nearby San Antonio to
9 sample the town's strawberries in 1921, and the *San Antonio*
10 *Express-News* ran a story headlined "Crimson Berries Beckon Hungry
11 Tourists to Poteet"; and

12 WHEREAS, Building on the city's reputation, the Poteet Rotary
13 Club staged the first Poteet Strawberry Festival in April 1948,
14 hoping to provide an incentive for veterans of World War II to
15 return to area farms; the club also promoted more careful packing of
16 the crop so that each buyer would receive a uniform pint, flat, or
17 crate of berries; and

18 WHEREAS, Over the course of the past 77 years, the festival
19 has grown to become one of the signature springtime events in South
20 Texas, drawing 100,000 visitors and contributing as much as \$12
21 million to the local economy each year; in addition to the
22 strawberries themselves, including those sold at the
23 much-anticipated strawberry auction, the popular gathering
24 features live music, a parade, and a food show; and

1 WHEREAS, The event also serves as a means of supporting area
2 students; for more than two decades, the Poteet Strawberry Festival
3 Association has presented college scholarships to a host of
4 deserving recipients each year, and many of the churches, schools,
5 and civic organizations that participate in the festival donate
6 scholarships as well; and

7 WHEREAS, This sweet, juicy, and colorful fruit is a delight
8 to behold and to taste, and for many years, the citizens of Poteet
9 have made the strawberry both a source of prosperity and a cause for
10 celebration; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
12 hereby redesignate Poteet as the official Strawberry Capital of
13 Texas; and, be it further

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