

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.