

By: Shofner

H.C.R. No. 74

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State is renowned around the world for
2 its extensive contributions to country music, and the city of
3 Carthage has played a significant role in furthering the genre and
4 celebrating and preserving its cultural legacy; and

5 WHEREAS, Carthage is home to the Texas Country Music Hall of
6 Fame, which focuses on the state's contributions to this
7 American-born artform and on the many Texas performers and
8 songwriters who have shaped its development; and

9 WHEREAS, That illustrious list includes two country legends
10 who trace their roots to the Carthage area: Tex Ritter and Jim
11 Reeves; Mr. Ritter hailed from Murvaul, just south of Carthage, and
12 during a career that stretched from the 1930s to the 1970s, he
13 became a beloved cowboy singer and star of more than 70 Western
14 movies; his achievements are chronicled in the Tex Ritter Museum,
15 which was first organized in Carthage in 1993 and is now part of the
16 Texas Country Music Hall of Fame; Mr. Reeves, a Carthage High
17 School graduate, earned legions of fans for his velvet-voiced style
18 of singing and recorded numerous hits from the early 1950s until his
19 tragic death in a plane crash in 1964; his gravesite east of
20 Carthage continues to draw visitors from around the globe; and

21 WHEREAS, In addition to paying tribute to Mr. Ritter and
22 Mr. Reeves, the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame includes an elite
23 roster of other Texas-born musicians; inductees range from early
24 figures such as Ernest Tubb and Bob Wills, to classic country

1 superstars like Willie Nelson and George Jones, to influential
2 performers and songwriters such as Tanya Tucker, Clint Black, Cindy
3 Walker, and Carthage native Linda Davis, to name but a few of those
4 who are honored; and

5 WHEREAS, Each summer, the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame
6 presents the Classic Country Music Festival, a multiday celebration
7 that draws thousands of visitors from across the state and beyond to
8 enjoy live performances, the hall of fame induction ceremony, and
9 other events; and

10 WHEREAS, Another annual musical highlight is the John Ritter
11 Showcase, which spotlights emerging talent in country music and
12 celebrates the late John Ritter, the son of Tex Ritter, who was an
13 iconic entertainer in his own right as well as an effective advocate
14 for the arts; moreover, Carthage hosts the Country Music Hayride, a
15 continuing series of performances at the Esquire Theater; and

16 WHEREAS, The citizens of Carthage have demonstrated a lasting
17 commitment to celebrating the rich history of Texas country music,
18 and the city's efforts to foster greater appreciation of the genre
19 and the state's impressive pantheon of performers is indeed
20 deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
22 hereby designate Carthage as the official Country Music Capital of
23 Texas; and, be it further

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