

By: Shofner

H.C.R. No. 81

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, With its location along one of Texas' earliest and
2 most important travel routes, the town of Milam played a pivotal
3 role in the early settlement of the Lone Star State; and

4 WHEREAS, Even before the arrival of European colonists, this
5 site near the Sabine River was a well-known stop along a trail used
6 by Native Americans; members of the Caddo tribe often visited a
7 watering place near the present-day location of the town, and the
8 site subsequently gained the name of Las Borregas; and

9 WHEREAS, When the Spanish attempted to assert a stronger hold
10 on the region in the late 1600s and early 1700s, missionaries and
11 soldiers traveled to the area along the same route; it came to be
12 known as El Camino Real de los Tejas and, later, as the Old San
13 Antonio Road and the King's Highway; the path of this historic
14 travel artery is now traced by Highway 21, a portion of which forms
15 Milam's main east-west thoroughfare; and

16 WHEREAS, When Spain opened Texas to Anglo American settlement
17 in the early 1800s, Stephen F. Austin traveled El Camino Real on his
18 way to San Antonio to secure the land grants for the initial
19 colonists; in July 1821, he spent his first night in Texas at a
20 campsite on Borregas Creek; the town was established in 1828 and was
21 originally called Red Mound before being renamed in honor of
22 Benjamin Rush Milam, a notable figure in the Texas Revolution; and

23 WHEREAS, Under the Republic of Texas, the community served as
24 a port of entry, which contributed to its rapid growth; a customs

1 house, inns, taverns, and two large racetracks were constructed,
2 and Milam became an important passageway for people traveling west
3 to carve a new destiny in Texas; during the Civil War, the town
4 became the county headquarters for the Army Quartermaster
5 Department of the Confederacy; and

6 WHEREAS, Today, Milam continues its tradition of welcoming
7 visitors; its rich history can be appreciated at such sites as the
8 Milam Cemetery and at restored homes in the area that date to the
9 early 1800s; each November, the Milam Settlers Organization
10 celebrates the town's storied past at the Milam Settlers Day
11 gathering in El Camino Park; and

12 WHEREAS, Through its connection to the famed El Camino Real
13 de los Tejas and the early history of Texas, Milam has contributed
14 greatly to the development of the Lone Star State, and this proud
15 heritage is indeed deserving of special recognition; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
18 hereby designate Milam as the official Gateway Capital of Texas;
19 and, be it further

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