

By: Shofner

H.C.R. No. 83

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, For decades, the residents of Rusk County have
2 embraced the production of ribbon cane syrup as an indelible part of
3 the community's culture and heritage; and

4 WHEREAS, Boasting a long growing season, fertile land, and
5 ample rain, Rusk County provided early settlers with an ideal
6 location for farming; one of the area's most popular cash crops was
7 sugarcane, the primary ingredient in ribbon cane syrup, which is
8 named for the distinct bands of color that run along the stalks of
9 some varieties of the plant; just one acre of sugarcane farmland
10 could produce enough of the crop to make 500 to 600 gallons of
11 syrup; and

12 WHEREAS, The process of making ribbon cane syrup required the
13 participation of numerous residents of the community; one person
14 would hook mules to a sweep that operated the sugarcane crusher, and
15 older children would feed sugarcane into rollers; a member of the
16 team would maintain the fire to heat the extracted cane juice while
17 another would skim the top of the syrup and move it through baffles
18 with paddles to prevent burning; each task was overseen by a
19 designated syrup master; and

20 WHEREAS, The traditional syrup-making process is
21 demonstrated at Rusk County's annual Heritage Syrup Festival, which
22 was first held in 1988; taking place on the grounds of the Depot
23 Museum in Henderson, the popular event attracts some 31,000
24 visitors to the county each year; attendees have the opportunity to

1 observe the full production method, with the beloved mules who
2 power the crusher playing a featured role; the museum also offers a
3 training course to help ensure that the folk art of syrup making is
4 passed along to future generations; and

5 WHEREAS, Rusk County's strong historical association with
6 ribbon cane syrup has long been a source of great pride for area
7 residents, and it is indeed deserving of special recognition; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
10 hereby designate Rusk County as the official Syrup Capital of
11 Texas; and, be it further

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