

By: Smithee

H.C.R. No. 87

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Cowboys, ranching, and rodeos are cultural icons
2 that reflect the identity of the Lone Star State, and Amarillo has
3 played a significant role in celebrating and preserving this rich
4 heritage; and

5 WHEREAS, Competitive rodeo events grew out of the cattle
6 industry in the American West, and the Texas Panhandle became a
7 major hub for cattle drives and open-range ranching beginning in
8 the late 1800s; the region has served as home to some of the most
9 famous ranches in state history, including the JA Ranch established
10 in 1876, the XIT Ranch founded in 1885, and the Frying Pan Ranch,
11 which was created in the 1880s; over time, cowboys from neighboring
12 ranch operations challenged each other's riding and roping skills
13 in rodeo competitions, and local contests became annual events; and

14 WHEREAS, Today, that tradition continues through ranch
15 rodeos, which feature working ranch hands instead of professional
16 rodeo athletes; Amarillo serves as a center for these contests,
17 which draw tens of thousands of spectators to the city each year;
18 the Tri-State Ranch Rodeo takes place as part of the annual
19 Tri-State Fair & Rodeo, and the Will Rogers Range Riders Rodeo is
20 held over the Fourth of July holiday; the Working Ranch Cowboys
21 Association conducts the World Championship Ranch Rodeo finals, and
22 Amarillo is also home to the Coors Cowboy Club Ranch Rodeo as well
23 as the West Texas Ranch Rodeo, which hosts collegiate teams from
24 around the country; in addition, the Boys Ranch Rodeo sponsored by

1 Cal Farley's Boys Ranch dates to 1945; and

2 WHEREAS, Today, ranching remains an important economic
3 driver for the Amarillo area, and the city's Western traditions are
4 celebrated through special events, museums, and historic sites that
5 honor the working cowboy lifestyle; and

6 WHEREAS, Ranch rodeos are a source of pride and prosperity
7 for the residents of Amarillo, and the city's reputation as a
8 showcase for the sport makes it a popular destination for visitors
9 and competitors from across the Lone Star State and beyond; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
12 hereby designate Amarillo as the official Ranch Rodeo Capital of
13 Texas; and, be it further

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