

By: Shofner

H.C.R. No. 93

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State is renowned for the beauty and
2 diversity of its many public gardens and parks and for the
3 dedication its residents have demonstrated to preserving and
4 sustaining these oases of greenery; and

5 WHEREAS, While outstanding gardens can be found in many
6 communities throughout the state, the city of Nacogdoches has
7 distinguished itself for the number and variety of its green and
8 flowering public spaces; and

9 WHEREAS, Nacogdoches is located on a site once occupied by
10 members of the Nacogdoche tribe, a group of the Caddo people whose
11 culture was based on farming; a Spanish mission was established
12 there in 1716, and the town has been a civil settlement since 1779;
13 as early as 1853, the city's gardens were noted in the diary of a
14 famous visitor, Frederick Law Olmsted, the landscape architect who
15 later designed New York's Central Park and numerous other iconic
16 public spaces around the nation; and

17 WHEREAS, Today, Nacogdoches helps to preserve the state's
18 horticultural heritage through re-creations of traditional gardens
19 at the Durst-Taylor Historic House and Gardens, the Sterne-Hoya
20 House Museum and Library, Millard's Crossing Historic Village, and
21 the Old Nacogdoches University Building; and

22 WHEREAS, The city's splendid green spaces also include
23 Eugenia Sterne Park, Margil Park, Zion Hill Baptist Church
24 Cemetery, Oak Grove Cemetery, and the Pocket Park and the Plaza

Principal in the historic downtown; moreover, Liberty Memorial Garden commemorates with dignity and grace the lives lost during the tragic events of 9/11; and

WHEREAS, Nacogdoches is home to Stephen F. Austin State University, which is landscaped with overstory and ornamental trees to maintain the Pineywoods ecosystem and the natural beauty of the campus; the university's 138 acres of gardens include the SFA Mast Arboretum, the Pineywoods Native Plant Center, the Gayla Mize Garden, the Jim and Beth Kingham Children's Garden, the Plantery, and Jimmy Hinds Park; in addition, the Baldcypress Collection and the Crape Myrtle Collection are renowned for their impressive display of those species; each year, SFA Gardens hosts programs that provide information on sustainable gardening and the preservation of native plants, while the Nacogdoches Independent School District supports initiatives that encourage students to maintain and study gardens on the grounds of their schools; and

WHEREAS, Home of the annual Nacogdoches Azalea Trail each March, the community was the first to be recognized as part of the Azalea Society of America's Azalea City Program in 2004 and was recertified in 2012; the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden on the SFA campus is the largest such garden in the state, with more than 7,000 evergreen and native azaleas on display; another of the city's notable sites is the Nacogdoches County Master Gardeners Demonstration Garden on the former site of Aqua Vitae Park, which was developed by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in cooperation with the city and Nacogdoches County; and

WHEREAS, The thoughtful cultivation of the splendor of nature

1 is one of the most sublime expressions of the human spirit, and the
2 skill and devotion with which the city of Nacogdoches has showcased
3 its lovely trees and flowering plants is indeed deserving of
4 special recognition; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
6 hereby designate Nacogdoches as the official Garden Capital of
7 Texas; and, be it further

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