

By: Hughes  
(Hefner)

S.C.R. No. 22

1                   SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Throughout the long and colorful history of Texas,  
3 the cannon has been an important weapon in the state's fight for  
4 liberty and independence as well as a symbol of the defiance and  
5 determination of its people; and

6           WHEREAS, The very first conflict of the Texas Revolution, the  
7 Battle of Gonzales, was fought over a cannon; on October 2, 1835,  
8 the 150 Texian rebels at Gonzales refused to surrender their bronze  
9 six-pounder to Mexican dragoons; they pointed instead to the cannon  
10 and declared, "Come and take it!"; during the ensuing battle, this  
11 memorable catchphrase and a painted image of the cannon itself were  
12 raised on a makeshift flag that was created by the women of  
13 Gonzales; the legendary flag has since become one of the iconic  
14 images of the Lone Star State; and

15           WHEREAS, In 1836, the defenders of the Alamo boasted the  
16 largest artillery contingent west of the Mississippi, an assortment  
17 of 18 to 21 artillery pieces, and after the Mexican army captured  
18 the fort, the cannons were destroyed or abandoned nearby; when the  
19 Alamo was avenged six weeks later by the Texian victory at the  
20 Battle of San Jacinto, the famous Twin Sisters, two six-pounders  
21 that had been donated to the rebellion by the people of Cincinnati,  
22 Ohio, played a decisive role in the defeat of Santa Anna's army; and

23           WHEREAS, A cannon featured in a memorable incident in the  
24 early years of the Texas Republic; in 1842, Austin residents feared

1 that President Sam Houston wanted to move the republic's capital  
2 from Austin to Houston, and when he sent Texas Rangers to take the  
3 government's archives, an Austin innkeeper named Angelina Eberly  
4 fired off a cannon on the corner of Sixth Street and Congress  
5 Avenue, rousing the city's population and blowing a hole in the  
6 General Land Office; and

7 WHEREAS, Today, vintage artillery pieces can be seen at  
8 county courthouses, military installations, and historical sites  
9 across Texas; two 24-pound howitzers made especially for the new  
10 republic by Major General Thomas Jefferson Chambers in the 1830s  
11 guard the south entrance of the Texas Capitol, while two 12-pound  
12 field guns and a wrought iron cannon are also situated on the  
13 Capitol grounds; a cannon reputed to be the "Come and Take It" gun  
14 is on exhibit at the Gonzales Memorial Museum, a cannon used by  
15 Colonel James Fannin at the Battle of Coleto Creek is displayed in a  
16 park in Goliad, and a bronze cannon believed to have been used at  
17 the Alamo is on permanent loan to the Shrine of Texas Liberty by the  
18 San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy; and

19 WHEREAS, The firing of a cannon continues to be an honored  
20 tradition at celebrations and commemorations across Texas; cannons  
21 help recreate Texas history, such as the fieldpiece fired for  
22 visitors by the "Living History" reenactors at the Fort Davis  
23 National Historical Site; and

24 WHEREAS, These historic weapons serve as powerful reminders  
25 of our state's epic struggle for freedom, and they further  
26 highlight the unique heritage shared by all those who are proud to  
27 call Texas home; now, therefore, be it

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1           RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas  
2 hereby designate the cannon as the official state gun of Texas.