

By: Huffines

S.C.R. No. 8

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, A cannon featured in a memorable incident in the
23 early years of the Texas Republic; in 1842, Austin residents feared
24 that President Sam Houston wanted to move the republic's capital

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

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

18 WHEREAS, The firing of a cannon continues to be an honored
19 tradition at celebrations and commemorations across Texas; since
20 1954, Smokey the Cannon has been discharged at every University of
21 Texas home football game in Austin--at the kickoff and the end of
22 each quarter, after the crowd sings "The Eyes of Texas," and each
23 time the team scores; during the off-season, the cannon and its crew
24 tour the country, representing the Longhorns at charity and
25 volunteer events; other cannons help recreate Texas history, such
26 as the fieldpiece fired for visitors by the "Living History"
27 reenactors at the Fort Davis National Historical Site; and

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

5 RESOLVED, That the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas
6 hereby designate the cannon as the official state gun of Texas.