

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Forever associated with Jim Bowie and the heroic
2 Battle of the Alamo, the Bowie knife has long been a vivid and
3 colorful symbol of the history and heritage of Texas; and

4 WHEREAS, It is thought that the first Bowie knife was made by
5 Rezin Bowie, Jim's brother, during the 1820s, when the two siblings
6 were in business together in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana; after Jim
7 was involved in a gunfight, Rezin gave him the large hunting knife
8 for personal protection, and in September 1827, in the chaotic
9 aftermath of a duel near Natchez, Louisiana, Jim used it to stab an
10 assailant who was trying to kill him; the story of the "Sandbar
11 Fight" ensured Jim's reputation as a deadly knife fighter, and all
12 across the South, men began to ask blacksmiths to make them a knife
13 like Jim Bowie's; and

14 WHEREAS, The weapon's fame grew when Jim Bowie took it with
15 him to Texas, and he and other defenders of the Alamo are thought to
16 have used the knives during the battle; the Bowie knife later became
17 popular with the Texas Rangers who served under the legendary Jack
18 Hays and Ben McCulloch, as well as with Confederate soldiers, who
19 were known to engrave "Sunny South" and other mottoes on the blades
20 of their knives; and

21 WHEREAS, During an era when guns often misfired, the Bowie
22 knife was a valuable back-up weapon, and schools were set up to
23 teach the technique of using the blade in a fight; knife makers
24 throughout the country met the increasing demand by creating

1 versions of the blade, and a journalist in Louisiana wrote that "all
2 the steel in the country, it seemed, was immediately converted into
3 Bowie knives"; they became internationally famous as well, and
4 cutlers in the English steel town of Sheffield began crafting
5 models that featured elaborately etched titles and slogans, such as
6 "Arkansas Toothpick," "Rio Grande Camp Knife," and "Americans Never
7 Surrender"; and

8 WHEREAS, The blade became less widely used as firearms became
9 more reliable, but it has continued to be popular with hunters and
10 collectors; designs have varied over the years, but today, the
11 Bowie knife typically features a steel blade that is at least an
12 inch and a half wide and eight inches long and between 3/16 and 1/4
13 inch thick, with a clip point that gives the weapon its distinctive
14 shape; the knife's handle often incorporates an S-shaped guard,
15 with the upper part angled forward so as to catch an opponent's
16 blade during a fight; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1958, one scholar wrote that "in the history of
18 American arms, three weapons stand out above all the rest: the
19 Kentucky rifle, the Colt's revolver, and the Bowie knife"; since
20 the days of the Alamo, the knife has served as an evocative reminder
21 of Texas' storied past, and it is inextricably linked with the
22 fierce and independent spirit of the Lone Star State; now,
23 therefore, be it

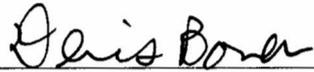
H.C.R. No. 86

1 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
2 hereby designate the Bowie knife as the official state knife of
3 Texas.

Springer
Holland
Martinez Fischer
Gervin-Hawkins
Larson



President of the Senate



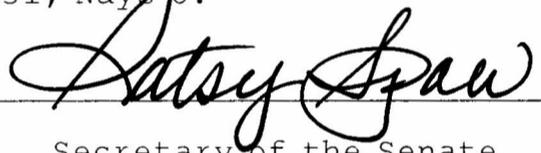
Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 86 was adopted by the House on May 7, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.



Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 86 was adopted by the Senate on May 22, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.



Secretary of the Senate

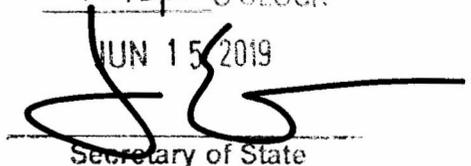
APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
4:45pm O'CLOCK

JUN 15 2019



Secretary of State

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
Governor of the State of Texas
41-3670

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15, of the Texas Constitution, I, Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove of and veto House Concurrent Resolution No. 86 as passed by the Eighty-Sixth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, because of the following objections:

This is the kind of resolution that a Texas Governor would sign without thinking. Fortunately, with a little thinking and study, it was learned that a statement contained in the resolution is factually incorrect: it identifies the location of Jim Bowie's "Sandbar Fight" as "near Natchez, Louisiana," when in fact the fight occurred near Natchez, Mississippi. So, as a thinking Governor, I think it best not to sign a factually incorrect resolution and instead to allow the Legislature to consider this next session.

Since the Eighty-Sixth Texas Legislature, Regular Session, by its adjournment has prevented the return of this bill, I am filing these objections in the office of the Secretary of State and giving notice thereof by this public proclamation according to the aforementioned constitutional provision.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 15th day of June, 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

GREG ABBOTT
Governor of Texas

ATTESTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Esparza".

JOE ESPARZA
Deputy Secretary of State

FILED IN THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
4:46pm O'CLOCK
JUN 15 2019