1	SENATE	CONCURRENT	RESOLUTION
L	DEMUTE	CONCORRENT	KESCHULION

WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the largest live oak tree in Texas, a 67-foot-high specimen, 10.25 feet wide, located in the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge in Brazoria County; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Forest Service has officially crowned the tree the new state champion; found deep within the forest of the wildlife refuge by federal wildlife biologist Michael Lange, the tree has been added to the state's Big Tree Registry, which is a record that has been kept since the 1940s of the largest of Texas' 250 tree species; and

WHEREAS, The tree replaces the 43-foot-tall, nine-foot-wide giant oak in Goose Island State Park, which had held the title of largest live oak in Texas since 1966; and

WHEREAS, The Lone Star State is home to 69 national champions, which places it behind only two other states for having the most oversized tree species; many of the Texas species exist nowhere else; and

WHEREAS, The San Bernard live oak is estimated to be more than 200 years old and has likely been nurtured by the nutrient-rich soils laid down in the forest each time the Brazos, San Bernard, and Colorado rivers flood; it is in a densely wooded area surrounded by many large oaks which probably protected the tree from being knocked down in the 1900 hurricane; and

S.C.R. No. 52

- 1 WHEREAS, There is both historical significance and an 2 environmental value to large trees, since they are credited with 3 controlling air pollution and purifying water; the biggest of any 4 species has a uniqueness that people are drawn to, and the United 5 States Fish and Wildlife Service hopes to soon start tours to the 6 largest live oak in Texas; now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
 hereby pay tribute to the live oak champion in Texas located in the
 San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge; and, be it further
- 10 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared in honor 11 of this tree and its discovery.

Secretary of State

President of the Senate	In Caldul
	Speaker of the House
I hereby certify that S.C.R.	No. 52 was adopted by the Senate
on May 20, 2003	<u> </u>
•	Secretary of the Senate
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1 hereby certify that S.C.R.	No. 52 was adopted by the House
on May 22, 2003	
	Chief Clerk of the House
Approved:	
RICK PERRY	
Governor	FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE 4:30pm_O'CLOCK