

1-1 By: Manuel (Senate Sponsor - Creighton) H.C.R. No. 61  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 1, 2023;  
 1-3 May 2, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on  
 1-4 Administration; May 16, 2023, reported favorably by the following  
 1-5 vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 16, 2023, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			

1-15 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1-16 WHEREAS, The City of Port Arthur has been steeped in Cajun  
 1-17 culture for nearly a century; and

1-18 WHEREAS, Located in the southeastern corner of Texas, Port  
 1-19 Arthur is a close neighbor to the Louisiana bayou region where the  
 1-20 Acadians, or Cajuns, settled in the mid-1700s after being forced  
 1-21 out of Nova Scotia; in 1927, the Great Mississippi Flood drove tens  
 1-22 of thousands from their homes in the Acadiana parishes of  
 1-23 Louisiana, and many of those displaced made their way to Port  
 1-24 Arthur, drawn by the ample employment opportunities in the  
 1-25 burgeoning petroleum industry and other sectors of the coastal  
 1-26 economy; and

1-27 WHEREAS, Louisiana Cajuns brought their distinctive culture,  
 1-28 which took root and flourished in their adopted city; local cuisine  
 1-29 acquired a Cajun flavor, with a boost from the family that opened  
 1-30 Judice's French Market in 1927; the restaurant helped popularize  
 1-31 such delicacies as crawfish, gumbo, and hot boudin, and its  
 1-32 longtime spokesman, A. J. Judice, "the Crazy Frenchman," became a  
 1-33 beloved ambassador of Cajun heritage; among other achievements, he  
 1-34 served as the impresario of the improbable pastime of crawfish  
 1-35 racing, which led to his tongue-in-cheek appointment as the sport's  
 1-36 commissioner by Texas governor Preston Smith in the early 1960s;  
 1-37 Port Arthur's Cajun community was also home to whiskey distiller  
 1-38 and entrepreneur Jack LaBove, who helped the city survive the dark  
 1-39 days of Prohibition; and

1-40 WHEREAS, Renowned for their love of music, Port Arthur  
 1-41 residents danced to such artists as Harry Choates, the "Godfather  
 1-42 of Cajun Music" and the "Fiddle King of Cajun Swing," whose 1946  
 1-43 recording of "Jole Blon" is considered iconic; favorite venues  
 1-44 included the Rodair Club, which showcased the music and nurtured  
 1-45 aspiring musicians such as accordionist Jude Moreau; today, younger  
 1-46 players like Donovan Bourque continue the tradition, keeping the  
 1-47 infectious Cajun rhythm part of the city's soundtrack; and

1-48 WHEREAS, Warm and friendly Cajun hospitality thrives  
 1-49 everywhere in Port Arthur, from fais-dodo house parties to major  
 1-50 events, among them the annual Cajun Heritage Fest; moreover, the  
 1-51 Museum of the Gulf Coast does its part to preserve and focus  
 1-52 attention on Cajun history and traditions; and

1-53 WHEREAS, Port Arthur takes great pride in the Cajun influence  
 1-54 that pervades so many aspects of life in the city, and residents of  
 1-55 all backgrounds enjoy celebrating these distinctive elements of  
 1-56 their culture; now, therefore, be it

1-57 RESOLVED, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas  
 1-58 hereby designate Port Arthur as the official Cajun Capital of  
 1-59 Texas; and, be it further

1-60 RESOLVED, That, in accordance with the provisions of Section  
 1-61 391.003(e), Government Code, this designation remain in effect

2-1 until the 10th anniversary of the date this resolution is finally  
2-2 passed by the legislature.

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