

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Athens, Texas, boasts a strong claim to being the  
2 original home of one of the nation's favorite foods, the hamburger;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, Although accounts differ as to the origins of this  
5 American classic, the staff at McDonald's management training  
6 center has traced its beginnings back to the 1904 St. Louis World's  
7 Fair, where it was sold by a vendor on the midway; a reporter for the  
8 New York *Tribune*, writing about the fair, made note of the new  
9 sandwich in an article and commented that it was the vendor's own  
10 creation; and

11           WHEREAS, The vendor, Fletcher Davis, had moved from Missouri  
12 to Athens in the 1880s to take a job at the Miller pottery works;  
13 Mr. Davis had a flair for preparing food and usually served as chef  
14 at his employer's picnics; when the business slowed down in the late  
15 1800s, he opened a lunchcounter on the courthouse square, where he  
16 sold the sandwich that would become such a staple of the U.S. diet;  
17 and

18           WHEREAS, Although it was served with slices of fresh-baked  
19 bread instead of a bun, this early version of the hamburger was then  
20 much like it is today and contained ground beef, ground mustard  
21 mixed with mayonnaise, a large slice of Bermuda onion, and sliced  
22 cucumber pickles; customers could also enjoy fried potatoes, served  
23 with a thick tomato sauce; when the journalist from the *Tribune* was  
24 told that Mr. Davis had learned to fix potatoes in that manner from

1 a friend in Paris, Texas, he misunderstood and described the item to  
2 his readers as french-fried potatoes; and

3 WHEREAS, According to a nephew of Mr. Davis's, the new  
4 sandwich acquired its name during the potter's sojourn in  
5 St. Louis; one theory holds that local residents of German descent  
6 may have named the sandwich after the city of Hamburg, whose  
7 citizens had a special affinity for ground meat; each June,  
8 residents of Athens celebrate the hamburger's origins in their  
9 community with Uncle Fletch's Burger and Bar-B-Q Cook-Off; and

10 WHEREAS, A century after the hamburger debuted on the  
11 national stage, it has become one of the best-loved foods in  
12 America; its economic impact is no less evident than its  
13 popularity: the immense volume of the burger business helps to  
14 drive the beef and grain industries and supports the employment of a  
15 substantial workforce; and

16 WHEREAS, The connection between Athens, Fletcher Davis, and  
17 the famed hamburger of the St. Louis World's Fair has been well  
18 documented, and it is fitting that the town's role in the history of  
19 that all-American sandwich be appropriately recognized; now,  
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas  
22 hereby formally designate Athens, Texas, as the Original Home of  
23 the Hamburger.

Brown of Kaufman

David Dewhurst

President of the Senate

Jim Caddick

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 15 was adopted by the House on March 22, 2007, by a non-record vote.

Robert Hancey  
Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.C.R. No. 15 was adopted by the Senate on May 10, 2007, by a viva-voce vote.

Datsy Spaw  
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 25 MAY 07

Date

Rick Perry  
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
10:00PM O'CLOCK  
MAY 25 2007

Roger Whinnis