

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 42

BY REPRESENTATIVE GUINN

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To designate the community of Thornwell in Jefferson Davis Parish as the Yellow Rail Capital of the World and to recognize the Yellow Rails and Rice Festival held in Thornwell, Louisiana.

WHEREAS, the Yellow Rails and Rice Festival will celebrate its sixth year in 2014, and it is a wonderful agritourism event that draws visitors to the state of Louisiana from various other states and countries; and

WHEREAS, the Yellow Rails and Rice Festival is the first United States birding festival with agritourism at its foundation; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the festival is to bring birdwatchers and other interested participants and rice farmers together during Louisiana's late rice harvest in a more organized format that will make Yellow Rail searching a more reliable endeavor, to give individuals the opportunity to witness rice harvesting operations and to further appreciate the cultural traditions of southwest Louisiana agriculture-based communities, to promote mutually beneficial agritourism that will provide recreational enjoyment and generate economic opportunities in southwestern Louisiana's rice growing region and adjacent areas, to further educate the public of the critical importance of rice cultivation and other "working wetlands" to bird populations, to encourage cooperation between agricultural and bird conservation interests in a joint effort to preserve bird friendly agricultural systems, and to view many great birds and meet new people; and

WHEREAS, the Yellow Rail is an elusive denizen that resides in rice fields and only becomes visible when flushed by rice harvesters; and

WHEREAS, Thornwell, Louisiana, is an excellent birdwatching destination where some of Louisiana's most impressive bird aggregations can be found throughout different times of the year; and

WHEREAS, Thornwell, Louisiana, represents the epicenter of Yellow Rail distribution in the southwestern rice fields; it is truly the Yellow Rail Capital of the World in terms of high numbers of Yellow Rail birds and in presenting a reliable opportunity for residents of the state of Louisiana and visitors alike to see these elusive Yellow Rail birds; and

WHEREAS, the coordinators of the festival and the nonprofit Avian Events Support Team desire that participants enjoy the event and learn more about birds, working wetlands, and the importance of rice grown in the United States.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby designate the community of Thornwell in Jefferson Davis Parish as the Yellow Rail Capital of the World and hereby recognizes the sixth annual Yellow Rails and Rice Festival in the community of Thornwell.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the community of Thornwell, Louisiana, and the coordinators of the Yellow Rails and Rice Festival.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE