

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 42

BY REPRESENTATIVE GUINN

LEGISLATIVE POWERS: Designates the community of Thornwell, Louisiana, as the Yellow Rail Capital of the World

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Guinn

HCR No. 42

Designates the community of Thornwell, La., as the Yellow Rail Capital of the World and recognizes the Yellow Rails and Rice Festival in Thornwell, La.