

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 189

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 180

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 189—Relative to September as Cowboy Appreciation Month.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 16, 1998.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 189, Frusetta. Cowboy Appreciation Month.

This measure would proclaim September 1998, as Cowboy Appreciation Month.

WHEREAS, The cowboy is an American legend; and

WHEREAS, The cowboy represents a character truly unique in our history, with the confidence of the Mexican vaquero, the resourcefulness of the mountain man, the fortitude of the French voyageur, the curiosity of the pioneer, and the patience and hope of farmers and clerks who braved the plains, mountains, and deserts to go westering in the tradition of the Vikings; and

WHEREAS, The cowboy raised, then moved cattle across vast distances to feed a hungry nation; and

WHEREAS, The cowboy braved death by stampede, drowning at unknown fords, snakebite, infection, Indian raids, extremes of weather, heat exhaustion and Blue Northers, sudden kicks or lunges of recalcitrant cattle, mules, or horses, and forsook the comforts of a wife and family to cross great, unknown expanses of land, and left his horse's hoof prints as a guide for later road makers; and

WHEREAS, The cowboy met those perils with fortitude, resourcefulness, courage, dependability, loyalty, and a humor that could turn the laugh on himself in the midst of dire circumstance; and

WHEREAS, The cowboy carried out his often tedious duties for 30 dollars a month, owned little but his horse, saddle, and a change of clothes; and

WHEREAS, The cowboy reveled in the knowledge that whether he wore sweat stained clothing and a dusty beard, or duded up and fresh from a bath at trail's end, he could look any man in the eye, and aspire to any dream; and

WHEREAS, The cowboy rode into the American consciousness with the great trail drives that began at the end of the Civil War, and soon became a national legend as a sterling figure in dime novels, then later movies and television; and

WHEREAS, The cowboy's qualities transcended and supplanted the derring-do of exaggerated tales; and

WHEREAS, The American people and the world recognized the cowboy as a figure as unique as the crusader of medieval times, or the mariner who dared unknown oceans to trail the sun across the horizon; and

WHEREAS, Although his number has diminished from a century ago, and he now employs computer and laser technology along with riata and reins to feed the nation; and

WHEREAS, The cowboy still delights in competing with other cowboys to show his prowess in riding, roping, and handling cattle and horses; and

WHEREAS, That spirit exemplifies all that is admirable about the cowboy as he acknowledges victory with a smile and the sweep of his Stetson, or rises from the dust where an animal has thrown him to heartily congratulate his winning opponent; and

WHEREAS, Rodeos are traditionally held in the summer throughout California and the western United States; and

WHEREAS, It is altogether appropriate and proper that his spirit be honored for the qualities he has shown and the place he represents in American and world history; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California proclaims September 1998, as Cowboy Appreciation Month; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

