

*State of Texas*  
*County of Williamson*  
*Know all men by these presents:*

**Resolution**

WHEREAS, Williamson County has been significantly influenced by family farming and ranching, and the Smith family of Weir has now been officially recognized as heirs to this proud tradition; and

WHEREAS, The Smith-Emerson Farm and the Spiked S Ranch were accepted into the Family Land Heritage Program of the Texas Department of Agriculture in 2006; and

WHEREAS, The Family Land Heritage Program honors Texas farms and ranches that have been continuously operated by the same family for 100 years or more; the program is designed to recognize and chronicle the unique history of Texas agriculture and the men and women who settled this great state and continue the tradition; and

WHEREAS, The Smith-Emerson Farm was purchased by Thomas Armstead Emerson in 1888, the 100-acre property was used to raise cotton, corn, wheat, hogs, cattle, and mules; over the past century, the property has been passed down through four generations of the Emerson family, from their son Thomas Hay and his wife, Susan, to Camilla Lydia Durrenberger and her husband, Shelton, to Laura Sue Smith and her husband, Fred C. Smith, Jr., to Marsh Fawn Smith and his wife, Rebecca Mary Sue Smith, and Karen Lou Smith Red, who own the land today and produce coastal Bermuda grass; and

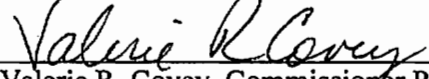
WHEREAS, The Spiked S Ranch was purchased in 1900 by Thomas Hay Emerson to produce cotton; in 1929 the ranch struggled to survive The Great Depression and was aided in 1933 by Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal and the Farm Security Administration; the land was passed down to Camilla Lydia (Emerson) Durrenberger in 1944; during World War II, Camilla switched from growing cotton to milo and corn; Camilla continued to modernize the farm by instituting crop rotation and developed terraces to reduce soil erosion; today, the Ranch is owned by Laura Sue Smith and the late Fred C. Smith; the ranch actively produces cattle, horses and oats; and

WHEREAS, In addition to maintaining their ranch, the Smiths have contributed to their community by donating land for the Weir Volunteer Fire Department and by leasing space to the post office to ensure its accessibility to local residents; and

WHEREAS, Family farms and ranches, such as the Smith-Emerson Farm and the Spiked S Ranch, have long been essential in maintaining the distinct heritage of Williamson County, and through their careful stewardship of their family's property, the Smith family continues to carry forth the county's agricultural traditions; now, therefore, be it

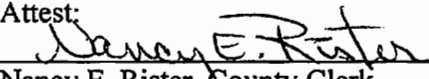
RESOLVED, That Laura Sue and Fred C. Smith, of the Spiked S Ranch, and Marsh Fawn and Rebecca Smith, Mary Sue Smith, and Karen Lou Smith Red, of the Smith-Emerson Farm be recognized for their dedication to Williamson County agricultural traditions.

RESOLVED this 29th day of July, 2008.

  
Valerie R. Covey, Commissioner Pct. 3

  
Dan A. Gattis, County Judge

Attest:

  
Nancy E. Rister, County Clerk