

By: Merritt

H.R. No. 49

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A 70th wedding anniversary is truly cause for a
2 joyous celebration, and childhood sweethearts Jack Elder, Sr., and
3 Winter Elder of Kilgore are marking this memorable occasion in
4 their marriage on July 14, 2003; and

5 WHEREAS, Married on July 14, 1933, the couple attended East
6 Texas Baptist College, where Mrs. Elder was chosen Harvest Festival
7 Queen; following their graduation, the newlyweds returned to
8 Kilgore to make their first home, and Mr. Elder went to work with
9 his father in the oil-field industry before embarking on a business
10 venture with his wife as the owner and operator of a photography
11 studio; the Elders lived in Dallas during World War II, after which
12 they moved their growing family back to Kilgore and Mr. Elder became
13 involved in ranching; and

14 WHEREAS, Throughout their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Elder have
15 enjoyed a warm and fulfilling relationship that has been made even
16 richer with the expansion of their family to include their
17 children, Susie Dickson Elder Merritt and Dr. Jack Donald Elder,
18 Jr.; their grandchildren, Kelly Elder Blakley, Ginger Elder Cannon,
19 Tiffany Merritt Johnston, Tara Merritt Ford, and Kristin Elder; and
20 their great-grandchildren, Robert and Kirby Blakley, Austin and
21 Travis Smith, Alexis, Colby, and Jack Johnston, and Merritt,
22 Savannah, and Luke Ford; and

23 WHEREAS, The former Winter Dickson has been a dedicated
24 homemaker throughout her marriage and is cherished for her warmth

1 and compassion as a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother; Mr.
2 Elder has been an amateur weightlifter for much of his life and
3 resumed that sport at the age of 60 and set a world record by
4 deadlifting 407 pounds when he was 80 years old; in addition, he has
5 written *The Gory Days* and coauthored *The Glory Days*, books
6 highlighting the history of Kilgore; and

7 WHEREAS, Together, this devoted couple have shared the trials
8 and triumphs of seven decades, and it is indeed a pleasure to join
9 in honoring them; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
11 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby congratulate Jack Elder,
12 Sr., and Winter Elder on the memorable occasion of their 70th
13 wedding anniversary and extend to them sincere best wishes for
14 continued happiness; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for Mr. and Mrs. Elder as an expression of high regard by
17 the Texas House of Representatives.