

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, People across the Lone Star State are mourning the  
2 loss of MacPhelan Reese, an accomplished artist, writer, historian,  
3 and friend, who passed away on July 7, 2003, at the age of 97; and

4           WHEREAS, Mr. Reese was born on March 27, 1906, and spent most  
5 of his formative years in Bonham, Texas; as a youth, he labored to  
6 support his family and yet was able to excel in his studies,  
7 eventually gaining fluency in Greek, Latin, Italian, and Spanish;  
8 and

9           WHEREAS, While a young man, he studied voice at the  
10 Cincinnati Conservatory and embarked on a rich and diverse career  
11 that included working as a professional fighter, a performer on the  
12 vaudeville stage and in 10 movies, a joke writer, and a pen and ink  
13 sketch artist; and

14           WHEREAS, Mr. Reese returned to his hometown of Bonham to  
15 serve as the resident writer, philosopher, and teller of tales at  
16 the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum, where he was widely respected  
17 for his dedication, wisdom, and inspirational attitude; he retired  
18 from the museum in 2001 as the oldest employee of The University of  
19 Texas System; and

20           WHEREAS, In his free time, Mr. Reese volunteered countless  
21 hours to serving his community, for which he was accorded various  
22 awards and commendations; he also sponsored the MacPhelan Reese  
23 Scholarship Fund in an effort to help local high school students  
24 pursue their dreams of higher education; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Reese once wrote, "The longest life is only a  
2 moment long, yet Greatness perpetuates itself; as long as its  
3 influence pollinates receptive minds, the owner of that greatness  
4 shall live . . . And as surely as shadows lengthen with the sun's  
5 decline, his eminence shall extend to horizons beyond our  
6 horizon."; this beautiful tribute, originally written upon the  
7 death of Sam Rayburn, can be aptly applied to the passing of its  
8 author as well; now, therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
10 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of  
11 MacPhelan Reese and extend sincere sympathy to his family and many  
12 friends; and, be it further

13           RESOLVED, That when the Texas House of Representatives  
14 adjourns this day, it do so in memory of MacPhelan Reese.

Phillips

H.R. No. 115

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 115 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on July 25, 2003.

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Chief Clerk of the House