

By: Phillips

H.R. No. 115

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.