

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 336

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Abilene has lost a legendary figure with the passing  
2 of Harry Holt on May 6, 2004, at the age of 89; and

3 WHEREAS, A journalist who championed farming, ranching, and  
4 rural Texas, Mr. Holt was born on June 3, 1914, in Sweetwater; he  
5 became a member of 4-H at the age of six and graduated from Newman  
6 High School in Sweetwater in 1931; with money that he had saved  
7 while farming with his father, he went on to attend West Texas A&M  
8 University in Canyon, where he lived and worked on the college farm;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, In 1934 Mr. Holt returned to his hometown as a  
11 reporter for the *Sweetwater Reporter News*; he joined the *Abilene*  
12 *Reporter-News* several years later, and in 1952 he became farm and  
13 ranch director for KRBC Radio; shortly after KRBC-TV, Abilene's  
14 first television station, went on the air in 1953, Mr. Holt also  
15 assumed duties there as its farm and ranch editor; and

16 WHEREAS, Altogether, Mr. Holt's career as a journalist  
17 spanned seven decades, five of them as a radio and television  
18 broadcaster in Abilene; he filed his last reports for the NBC  
19 affiliate in that city in August 2003; and

20 WHEREAS, Over the course of his long professional life, Harry  
21 Holt mentored generations of younger journalists and, with the aid  
22 of a remarkably acute memory, developed a sweeping knowledge of  
23 area farm and family histories; and

24 WHEREAS, Recognized repeatedly by agricultural

1 organizations, he was twice named Honorary Agricultural  
2 Commissioner of Texas and in 1971 was selected as Man of the Year in  
3 Texas Agriculture; an agriculture scholarship was established in  
4 the names of Mr. Holt and his wife, Mary, in 2000, and in 2003 he  
5 received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the West Texas  
6 Rehabilitation Center; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Holt maintained a ranch himself in Eastland  
8 County, near Carbon; his affiliations included First Baptist Church  
9 in Abilene and the Masonic Lodge in Hylton, both of which counted  
10 him as a valued member; and

11 WHEREAS, A devoted husband to Mary Holt and the proud father  
12 of two daughters, Mary Jo and Betty Ann, Mr. Holt rejoiced as his  
13 family circle grew to include two grandchildren and three  
14 great-grandchildren; and

15 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan enjoyed a life that was rich in  
16 family, friends, and accomplishments, and his memory will be  
17 forever cherished by those who were privileged to share in his love  
18 and affection; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
20 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby pay special tribute to the  
21 life of Harry Holt and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his  
22 family: to his wife, Mary Clark Sturdivant Holt; to his daughters,  
23 Betty Ann Holt and Mary Jo Holt Smith and her husband, Jerrell; to  
24 his grandchildren, Leigh Ann Smith and Matt Smith and his wife,  
25 Rachel; to his great-grandchildren, Morgan, Chandler, and  
26 Eliesabeth Smith; to his sisters, Billye Meadows and Katherine  
27 Dyess; to his brother-in-law, Max Sturdivant and his wife, Oneta;

1 and to all who join in mourning the loss of this beloved gentleman;  
2 and, be it further

3           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
4 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
5 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Harry Holt.