

By: Hilderbran

H.C.R. No. 226

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Poet Laureate, State Musician, and State  
2 Artist Committee has selected Cleatus Rattan of Cisco as Texas Poet  
3 Laureate for 2004; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of Dallas, Dr. Rattan attended Southern  
5 Methodist University before joining the United States Marine Corps,  
6 then earned bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of  
7 North Texas, a master's degree from Hardin-Simmons University, and  
8 a master's degree from Southern Methodist University; he also  
9 received a doctorate in English from Texas A&M  
10 University--Commerce; and

11 WHEREAS, He was an English instructor from 1969 to 2002 at  
12 Cisco Junior College, where he also chaired the department of  
13 English and the division of languages and communication; he  
14 formerly was poetry editor at *Cross Timbers Review* and, today, his  
15 schedule includes operating a ranch in Cisco and serving as an  
16 advisory board member of the Texas Center for Writers; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Rattan is the author of *The Border, Free of the*  
18 *Flesh and Other Poems*, and *130 Miles to Dallas*, as well as more than  
19 250 poems that have been published in journals and anthologies; he  
20 has written short stories, monographs, reviews, critical papers,  
21 and an essay, *The Hero*, and has given readings of his works at a  
22 number of universities over the last 25 years; and

23 WHEREAS, Tributes to this accomplished writer have come in  
24 the form of a Texas Review Poetry Prize in 2002 and 1982, a New Texas

1 Poetry Prize in 2002, and a Mesquite Poetry Prize in 1996, and in  
2 1992 he was honored as an Outstanding Graduate of Irving High  
3 School; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Rattan's poems plumb universal truths as they  
5 precisely and lovingly evoke the people and landscapes of his  
6 cherished West Texas; infused with warmth, humor, and humanity, his  
7 verses give the reader a feeling, as one critic suggested, of the  
8 way life ought to be; and

9 WHEREAS, Through his exceptional contributions to his chosen  
10 field of artistic endeavor, Cleatus Rattan has earned deep  
11 appreciation and esteem and further enriched the vibrant cultural  
12 life of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas  
14 hereby honor Cleatus Rattan on the occasion of his selection as  
15 Texas Poet Laureate for 2004; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
17 prepared for Dr. Rattan as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
18 House of Representatives and Senate.