

By: Cook of Navarro

H.R. No. 404

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, March 7, 2003, represents a significant milestone in
2 the marriage of Leland and Sue Cook of Corsicana, for on that day
3 the couple are celebrating 50 years of living happily ever after;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Childhood sweethearts, Mr. and Mrs. Cook gained an
6 invaluable tolerance for members of the opposite sex from a young
7 age that made them well-suited for the role of lifelong partners;
8 Mrs. Cook, a native of Mundy, was raised with two brothers, Dee and
9 Bill, while Mr. Cook grew up in Abilene as the seriously outnumbered
10 brother of three sisters, Mildred Francis, Lora Lee, and Regina
11 May; and

12 WHEREAS, Rendered a Shirley Temple look-alike by her mother
13 as a child, Mrs. Cook resembles the bubbly star in terms of her
14 outgoing personality as well, and she showed her school spirit as a
15 cheerleader in junior high school and as a tennis and volleyball
16 player in high school before graduating in 1952; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Cook was also a student-athlete who played on
18 his high school football team and held the singular distinction of
19 being the biggest player on his team and the only player in his
20 division to weigh more than 200 pounds; the winner of the 1952
21 Golden Glove championship of high school boxing, this live wire
22 could often be found behind the wheel of his car when he wasn't
23 pursuing a sport or his girl, and his myriad adventures included
24 crossing the lake in his 1941 Chevy coupe during a winter freeze and

1 rolling his 1951 Studebaker Champion convertible and going airborne
2 before awakening to the sounds of the car radio playing a tune
3 welcoming him to heaven; and

4 WHEREAS, After high school, Mrs. Cook attended Texas Tech
5 University and Mr. Cook went to Texas A&M University, where he
6 majored in agricultural economics, played football, and joined the
7 Corps of Cadets; though she was at Texas Tech for only a year, Mrs.
8 Cook joined Kappa Kappa Gamma and made a lasting impression on her
9 friends at the university, especially those for whom she kept time;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Fulfilling a threat he made at the tender age of 16,
12 Mr. Cook married the love of his life on March 7, 1953, in Hearne;
13 returning to school to finish out the semester, the Cooks later
14 honeymooned in a luxurious pup tent in Colorado before making their
15 first home together in married student housing at Texas A&M; and

16 WHEREAS, Side by side, the devoted young couple were ready to
17 take on any challenges and opportunities that came their way;
18 coached by her spouse, Mrs. Cook won a women's softball
19 championship as one of the Hamby Angels in the 1960s, and she went
20 on to navigate previously uncharted waters for a woman as a
21 draftsman and supervisor for West Texas Utilities and to design
22 Corsicana's Petroleum Park as a commercial artist in the 1970s; and

23 WHEREAS, Though possibly destined for a career in the
24 spotlight after his successful acting debut at the age of 10, Mr.
25 Cook chose instead to forge a different path, moving his family in
26 1967 from Abilene to Corsicana in a 1964 Corvair van while pulling a
27 1947 Plymouth, in what proved to be a great career move; initially

1 employed by a newspaper, he became a vending machine entrepreneur
2 in 1974, cofounded Tradewest, the first Texas company to create
3 entertainment software for Nintendo in 1985, and has been raising
4 champion Thoroughbred racehorses at the family's Richland Ranch now
5 for the past decade; and

6 WHEREAS, The proud parents of their own basketball team
7 following the births of sons Byron, Rob, Ken, Lance, and Brad, the
8 Cooks survived the perils of parenting five boys relatively
9 unscathed and today can exact their payback by regaling their
10 daughters-in-law and 13 grandchildren with tales of their boys'
11 most memorable mishaps; Mr. Cook's winning ways with young people
12 also led him to contribute a remarkable 25 years to his community as
13 a Little League baseball coach; and

14 WHEREAS, Embraceable and irreplaceable, Leland and Sue Cook
15 have only grown in love and affection for one another with each
16 passing year, and the State of Texas may have to consider taking
17 action against them, for they have been pivotal in guiding their
18 son, the Honorable Byron Cook, to the position he holds today, and
19 they have inspired all of their loved ones with their shining
20 example of lives well lived; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
22 Legislature hereby congratulate Leland and Sue Cook on the joyous
23 occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary and extend to them
24 sincere best wishes for continued happiness; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for Mr. and Mrs. Cook as an expression of high regard by
27 the Texas House of Representatives.