

By: Geren

H.R. No. 940

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The House of Representatives of the State of Texas  
2 takes pleasure in joining citizens across the state in  
3 congratulating Russell Don "Red" Steagall on his induction into the  
4 National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum's prestigious Hall of  
5 Great Westerners; and

6           WHEREAS, Red Steagall will be honored at the museum's 42nd  
7 Western Heritage Awards ceremonies on April 12, 2003; through his  
8 induction into the Hall of Great Westerners, he will join other  
9 writers, poets, explorers, Native American leaders, and statesmen  
10 who represent the heart and spirit of America's western heritage;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, Red will also receive the 2002 Wrangler Award for  
13 his album, *Wagon Tracks*; it will be the fifth Wrangler Award he has  
14 received for original songs and traditional western albums; and

15           WHEREAS, Red grew up in the Texas panhandle and earned a  
16 degree in animal science from West Texas State University, which  
17 serves him well in his quarter horse operation on his ranch west of  
18 Fort Worth; and

19           WHEREAS, While in college, Red formed a band and started  
20 playing at rodeo dances on the weekends; he eventually formed a  
21 publishing company with Jimmy Bowen; he moved to Hollywood in the  
22 1960s, and he and Don Lanier penned the song "Here We Go Again,"  
23 which was recorded by Ray Charles; Red regards the recording of that  
24 song as the turning point in his professional career; and

1           WHEREAS, In 1970, Red recorded "Party Dolls and Wine," the  
2 first of his many hits; he takes pride in proclaiming his songs are  
3 lyric oriented and that they tell the true story of the  
4 cowboy--someone who makes his living on horseback and with the land  
5 and who is dedicated to his way of life; and

6           WHEREAS, As a songwriter, Red has had more than 200  
7 compositions recorded, and has released 26 consecutive records on  
8 the national charts and 20 albums; he has published two books  
9 embracing the Western lifestyle and has appeared in a number of  
10 movies; he has also appeared on numerous television shows and  
11 performed in Las Vegas and Reno; and

12           WHEREAS, An exemplary gentleman and a highly acclaimed  
13 writer, performer, and rancher, Red Steagall has spent his life  
14 preserving and interpreting the cowboy traditions; the Texas  
15 Legislature in 1991 proclaimed him the official Cowboy Poet of  
16 Texas; and

17           WHEREAS, The master cowboy storyteller has used his music to  
18 convey his heartfelt love for a people and a way of life that will  
19 continue to exist as long as poets and dreamers, men of character  
20 and honor like himself, perpetuate the West in story and song; now  
21 therefore, be it

22           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the State of  
23 Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby commend Russell Don Steagall for  
24 his exceptional talent and many achievements and extend  
25 congratulations to him for his induction into the Hall of Great  
26 Westerners at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum; and,  
27 be it further

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1           RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him  
2 as an expression of highest esteem from the Texas House of  
3 Representatives.