

By: Hopson

H.R. No. 1264

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, On November 1, 2003, participants in the Davy
2 Crockett Charity Ride will embark on an inspirational,
3 six-and-a-half-week trek to benefit people who have Down's
4 syndrome; and

5 WHEREAS, Organized by songwriter and storyteller Phil
6 Thomas, the group will depart from Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, Davy
7 Crockett's hometown, and follow a route that ends at the Alamo in
8 San Antonio, where the renowned frontiersman died; other
9 participants, traveling on horseback, on foot, and by wagon, will
10 join in at various points along the way, with saddle clubs in
11 Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana helping to publicize the
12 event; altogether, the ride will traverse four states and 31
13 counties; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas was inspired to pursue his long-held
15 ambition to make such a ride by his grandson, Van Warden, an
16 eighth-generation Texan who has Down's syndrome; dedicated to
17 raising awareness of that condition, Mr. Thomas is using the Davy
18 Crockett Charity Ride to promote understanding and acceptance of
19 people with Down's syndrome; and

20 WHEREAS, This laudable undertaking reflects the zest that Mr.
21 Thomas has brought to all his endeavors throughout a remarkable and
22 rewarding career; a former football quarterback at Mississippi
23 State University and a veteran of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne
24 Division, he coached high school football for a number of years in

1 Memphis before moving his family to Middle Tennessee and turning
2 his hand to songwriting; among the artists who have recorded his
3 songs have been Johnny Paycheck, George Strait, Randy Travis,
4 Alabama, and Barbara Mandrell; and

5 WHEREAS, Nationwide, more than 350,000 Americans have Down's
6 syndrome, and Mr. Thomas and the many people participating in this
7 ride are to be commended for their efforts to bring these
8 individuals' lives and dreams to the public's attention; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
11 Legislature hereby recognize the Davy Crockett Charity Ride and
12 extend to Phil Thomas and all who join in this admirable project
13 warmest best wishes for a successful and memorable journey; and, be
14 it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for Phil Thomas as an expression of high regard by the
17 Texas House of Representatives.