

By: Hilderbran

H.R. No. 1487

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Bob Hope is celebrating his 100th birthday on May  
2 29, 2003, and it is a great pleasure to honor this legendary  
3 entertainer and humanitarian who has brought smiles and laughter to  
4 generations of fans around the world; and

5           WHEREAS, Born Leslie Townes Hope in Eltham, England, on May  
6 29, 1903, Mr. Hope moved with his family to Cleveland, Ohio, four  
7 years later; although he held jobs as a soda jerk, shoe salesman,  
8 and newspaper vendor, he was determined to pursue his dream of  
9 becoming an entertainer, and took dancing lessons from  
10 professionals King Rastus Brown and Johnny Root after high school;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, Mr. Hope broke into vaudeville as a dancer partnered  
13 with Mildred Rosequist and later worked with Lloyd Durbin and  
14 George Byrne, but gained his greatest success after becoming a solo  
15 act; his prolific Broadway career, which began with *Sidewalks of*  
16 *New York*, enabled Mr. Hope to share the stage with such other greats  
17 as Ruby Keeler, Fanny Brice, Ethel Merman, and Jimmy Durante; and

18           WHEREAS, Blessed with a wry delivery and impeccable comic  
19 timing, Mr. Hope was an ideal choice for radio variety programming;  
20 his first major appearance was on *The Fleischmann Hour*, and he  
21 quickly established himself as one of the biggest stars in radio  
22 broadcasting, remaining a fixture on the airwaves until April 1956;  
23 and

24           WHEREAS, Mr. Hope was equally successful in Hollywood and

1 starred in over 50 films, including the massively popular "Road"  
2 pictures with Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour, on the way to becoming  
3 Tinseltown's number one box-office draw; with the advent of  
4 television, Mr. Hope captivated home audiences as well, and through  
5 the years his shows consistently earned top Nielsen ratings; and

6 WHEREAS, A staunch supporter of American servicemen and  
7 servicewomen, Mr. Hope performed for U.S. soldiers across the  
8 globe, both in times of peace and war, for nearly 60 years; his  
9 unwavering commitment to bringing humor and a little bit of home to  
10 men and women in uniform has made him beloved among our nation's  
11 military personnel, and in 1997 he became the first person in the  
12 history of this nation to be named an Honorary Veteran by the United  
13 States Congress; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Hope is known far and wide as a golf enthusiast  
15 par excellence, and authored the best-selling *Confessions of a*  
16 *Hooker*, which featured anecdotes about his golfing experiences; in  
17 addition, he was instrumental in creating the Bob Hope Chrysler  
18 Classic pro-am golf tournament, an event that has raised more than  
19 \$35 million for the Eisenhower Medical Center and other deserving  
20 charities; and

21 WHEREAS, Although often lampooning his inability to win an  
22 acting Oscar as the long-standing emcee of the annual Academy  
23 Awards show, Mr. Hope did receive two honorary Oscars, two special  
24 awards, and the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award; accorded an  
25 honorary knighthood in 1998 by Queen Elizabeth II, he has been cited  
26 by the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the most honored  
27 entertainer in the world; and

1           WHEREAS, Through his extraordinary achievements on the  
2 stage, on the motion-picture screen, in radio, and in television,  
3 this remarkable man has won a place in our hearts that is as  
4 singular as his distinctive profile, and his star continues to  
5 shine ever brighter with each passing year as succeeding  
6 generations discover the enduring gifts he has bestowed on us all;  
7 now, therefore, be it

8           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
9 Legislature hereby congratulate Bob Hope on the momentous occasion  
10 of his 100th birthday and extend to him a very sincere "thanks for  
11 the memories" from his legions of fans in Texas; and, be it further

12           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
13 prepared for Mr. Hope as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
14 House of Representatives.