

By: Hilderbran, Hunter

H.R. No. 1548

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, World renowned actor, comedian, entertainer, and
2 humanitarian Bob Hope has brought smiles and laughter to
3 generations of fans around the world and will be celebrating his
4 100th birthday on May 29, 2003; 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, In 1937, Mr. Hope was introduced to Dolores DeFina
19 Reade after she had performed in a show at the Vogue Club on 57th
20 Street in New York City; the two married in February 1934 and have
21 four children and four grandchildren that they continue to cherish;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Hope has appeared innumerable times throughout
24 the great state of Texas not only in our finest entertainment

1 venues, but also in countless charitable events and activities
2 which raised millions of dollars for the benefit of others; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Hope was honored by Southern Methodist
4 University in Dallas with the naming of the Bob Hope Theater which
5 continues today to feature creative artists and world famous
6 personalities from year to year; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Hope has appeared in all of the major cities of
8 Texas over the years including the city of Abilene where he was the
9 featured entertainer in 1979 and 1980 for the JOINT VENTURE FOR
10 CRIPPLED CHILDREN which benefitted the West Texas Rehabilitation
11 Center and also was willing to appear in taped charitable
12 promotions for a period of five years in order to assist needy
13 children and adults with free rehabilitation services; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1970 Bob Hope invited twenty Abilenians including
15 the Honorable Bob Hunter, Abilene City Councilman at the time, to be
16 his special guests at the Honor America Day Ceremonies on the
17 Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument Mall with evangelist Billy
18 Graham as the co-host; there was a great cast of performers
19 including Andy Williams, Kate Smith, Pat Boone, Dinah Shore, Jack
20 Benny, and many others with thousands of citizens attending from
21 throughout the United States; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Hope has given legendary support to the world of
23 golf including the great golf courses and golfing events in the
24 state of Texas, and was instrumental in creating the Bob Hope
25 Chrysler Classic pro-am golf tournament, an event that has raised
26 more than \$35 million for the Eisenhower Medical Center and other
27 deserving charities; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Hope will be honored through *The Bob Hope 100th*
2 *Birthday Tribute Collection* released in April with 12 DVD's
3 featuring 17 of his movies; and New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and
4 London have scheduled Bob Hope film festivals this summer; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Hope will be featured on the *100 years of Hope*
6 *and Humor* two-hour special by the National Broadcasting Company on
7 Sunday at 7 P.M. having drawn 12.6 million viewers when it
8 originally aired on Easter Sunday of this year; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Hope was saluted at a Library of Congress Gala
10 and on Sunday his daughter, Linda, and his son, Anthony, will be
11 present at a tribute aboard the U.S.S. Intrepid as part of the
12 Navy's Fleet Week ceremonies; and

13 WHEREAS, The exhibit *Bob Hope: American Patriot* is presently
14 on view through June 8th at the Ronald Reagan Library in California
15 and will travel to the Eisenhower, Johnson, and Ford Libraries; and

16 WHEREAS, The Bob Hope Joke File is preserved to this day in a
17 climate-controlled vault in North Hollywood, California, and
18 includes more than 85,000 pages which are a part of the Bob Hope
19 Gallery of Entertainment in Washington, D.C.; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Hope, more than any other person, has
21 entertained our United States military forces through the U.S.O. in
22 all parts of the world in peace time and in battle, and in 1997
23 became the first person in the history of this nation to be named an
24 Honorary Veteran by the United States Congress; and

25 WHEREAS, The famous corner of Hollywood Boulevard and Vine
26 Street has been re-named "Bob Hope Square" in recognition of his
27 contributions to the motion picture industry starring in over 50

1 films, including the massively popular "Road" pictures with Bing
2 Crosby and Dorothy Lamour, on the way to becoming Tinseltown's
3 number one box-office draw; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Hope has been named one of the world's greatest
5 ambassadors of goodwill by traveling and serving in hundreds of
6 nations across our globe; and

7 WHEREAS, The extraordinary achievement of this great
8 American has won a place in our hearts that is as singular as his
9 distinctive profile, and his star continues to shine ever brighter
10 with each passing year as succeeding generations discover the
11 enduring gifts he has bestowed on us all; now therefore, be it

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

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for Mr. Hope and his wife of 69 years, Dolores, as an
18 expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.