

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Texas is home to numerous authors and poets who have  
2 earned international acclaim for their work, but one of our state's  
3 most unique and prolific authors, Missy Jones Thistlewood, remains  
4 unknown to all but a few devotees of her unusual literary milieu;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, Melissa Elizabeth Jones was born in Lubbock in 1912,  
7 and while growing up on her family's cotton farm, she could hardly  
8 have guessed the unusual turns her life would take; she began dating  
9 Arthur Thistlewood while the two were still in high school, and  
10 despite admonitions from friends about the nature of her future  
11 name, she married him soon after graduation; and

12           WHEREAS, Mrs. Melissa Elizabeth Thistlewood then endured  
13 much good-natured teasing from family and friends about her  
14 difficult name, and this initiated her lifelong fascination with  
15 tongue twisters; when the economic pressures of the Great  
16 Depression made it difficult for her and Arthur to support their two  
17 young children, Mrs. Missy Thistlewood put her hobby to good use,  
18 and with money borrowed from her parents, she published her first  
19 book of tongue twisters; and

20           WHEREAS, From such seemingly simple sentences as "Plain bun,  
21 plum bun, bun without plum" to the more difficult "There was a  
22 little witch which switched from Chichester to Ipswich" to the  
23 fiendishly difficult "Miss Smith's fish-sauce shop seldom sells  
24 shellfish," Mrs. Thistlewood's book included a vast collection of

1 alliterative literary twists and onomatopoeic monstrosities, and  
2 it quickly became a tremendous success; and

3       WHEREAS, To this day, her favorite creation is the one that  
4 was inspired by a variation of her own name; for the past 60 years,  
5 generations of American children have struggled to recite:  
6 "Theophilus Thadeus Thistledown, the successful thistle-sifter,  
7 while sifting a sieve-full of unsifted thistles, thrust three  
8 thousand thistles through the thick of his thumb; Now, if  
9 Theophilus Thadeus Thistledown, the successful thistle-sifter,  
10 thrust three thousand thistles through the thick of his thumb, See  
11 that thou, while sifting a sieve-full of unsifted thistles, thrust  
12 not three thousand thistles through the thick of thy thumb"; and

13       WHEREAS, Mrs. Melissa Elizabeth Thistlewood, if she were in  
14 fact a real person, would undoubtedly join the Texas House of  
15 Representatives in lauding the elocutionary expertise and  
16 pronouncedly proficient pronunciation with which our reading  
17 clerks have read this resolution and thousands of other legislative  
18 documents in the course of the 78th Legislative Session, and it is  
19 to be hoped they will accept this good-natured tribute as an  
20 expression of deepest appreciation and esteem from the members of  
21 this chamber; now, therefore, be it

22       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
23 Legislature hereby honor T. C. Turner and Shannon Steward for their  
24 dedicated service as reading clerks and extend to them warmest best  
25 wishes for continued success and happiness in all their future  
26 endeavors; and, be it further

27       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

H.R. No. 2024

1 prepared for this dynamic duo as an expression of highest regard by  
2 the Texas House of Representatives.

Edwards

Craddick	Geren	Mercer
Allen	Giddings	Merritt
Alonzo	Goodman	Miller
Bailey	Goolsby	Moreno of Harris
Baxter	Griggs	Moreno of El Paso
Berman	Grusendorf	Morrison
Bohac	Guillen	Mowery
Bonnen	Gutierrez	Naishtat
Branch	Haggerty	Nixon
Brown of Kaufman	Hamilton	Noriega
Brown of Brazos	Hamric	Oliveira
Burnam	Hardcastle	Olivo
Callegari	Harper-Brown	Paxton
Campbell	Hartnett	Pena
Canales	Heflin	Phillips
Capelo	Hegar	Pickett
Casteel	Hilderbran	Pitts
Castro	Hill	Puente
Chavez	Hochberg	Quintanilla
Chisum	Hodge	Raymond
Christian	Homer	Reyna
Coleman	Hope	Riddle
Cook of Navarro	Hopson	Ritter
Cook of Colorado	Howard	Rodriguez
Corte	Hughes	Rose
Crabb	Hunter	Seaman
Crownover	Hupp	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Harris	Isett	Smith of Harris
Davis of Dallas	Jones of Lubbock	Smithee
Dawson	Jones of Bexar	Solis
Delisi	Jones of Dallas	Solomons
Denny	Keel	Stick
Deshotel	Keffer of Dallas	Swinford
Driver	Keffer of Eastland	Talton
Dukes	King	Taylor
Dunnam	Kolkhorst	Telford
Dutton	Krusee	Thompson
Edwards	Kuempel	Truitt
Eiland	Laney	Turner
Eissler	Laubenberg	Uresti
Elkins	Lewis	Van Arsdale
Ellis	Luna	Villarreal
Escobar	Mabry	West
Farabee	Madden	Wilson
Farrar	Marchant	Wise
Flores	Martinez Fischer	Wohlgemuth
Flynn	McCall	Wolens
Gallego	McClendon	Wong
Garza	McReynolds	Woolley
Gattis	Menendez	Zedler

H.R. No. 2024

---

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2024 was adopted by the House on June 2, 2003, by a non-record vote.

---

Chief Clerk of the House