

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 607

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

WHEREAS, Red Steagall was honored at the museum's 42nd Western Heritage Awards ceremonies; through his induction into the Hall of Great Westerners, he will join other writers, poets, explorers, Native American leaders, and statesmen who represent the heart and spirit of America's western heritage; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The master cowboy storyteller has used his music to convey his heartfelt love for a people and a way of life that will continue to exist as long as poets and dreamers, men of

character and honor like himself, perpetuate the West in story and song; now, therefore, be it

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

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him as an expression of highest esteem from the Texas Senate.

Brimer, Estes,
Harris, Nelson

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 29, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate