

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 343

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Les Vanover has recently celebrated the 50th
2 Anniversary of his graduation in 1954 from Abilene Christian
3 College, now University, as a National Athletic Intercollegiate
4 Association National Champion in track and field; and

5 WHEREAS, He cleared the winning height of 6' 8 1/2" as a high
6 jumper in the Texas Relays Exhibition in the spring of 1955 and
7 cleared a jump at 6' 10" even before the famous "Fosberry Flop" was
8 used in the sport; and

9 WHEREAS, He won the Texas Amateur Athletic Union high jump
10 competition in the summer of that same year; and

11 WHEREAS, He was given the opportunity to participate as an
12 Olympic prospect in the United States Army and accomplished a high
13 jump of 6' 9", setting a new United States Army record at
14 Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, while still using the "old western
15 belly-roll style"; and

16 WHEREAS, He won the first Olympic trial meet held at Soldier
17 Field in Chicago with a first place jump of 6' 8" and went on to
18 participate with the All-Army Team in Pasadena, California; and

19 WHEREAS, As an Army laboratory technician at a military
20 hospital in Germany, he participated in the Indoor Frankfurt
21 International Sports Festival in February 1957; and

22 WHEREAS, He received a plaque from General of the Army Mark
23 Clark as the European Track and Field Athlete of the Year as a high
24 jump champion and as a 110-meter hurdles champion; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Vanover grew up in Beaumont, Texas, and coached
2 in the Corpus Christi Independent School District; and

3 WHEREAS, He is now living in Granbury, Texas, where he was
4 recently featured in the Hood County News as an accomplished
5 wildlife painter at the age of 73 and has won many awards for his
6 artistry; and

7 WHEREAS, He will be forever remembered as a world-class
8 champion in track and field; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
10 Legislature, join in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Mr. Les
11 Vanover's international success in track and field and for his
12 continued success in life as a painter and in his community; and, be
13 it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for Les Vanover as well as one for his daughter, Kathryn,
16 and her husband, Mike Cox, of Granbury.