

By: Leibowitz

H.C.R. No. 86

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, With the retirement of "Jesse" James Leija from his  
2 career as a professional boxer, the sport has lost one of its most  
3 accomplished practitioners, and this memorable milestone offers an  
4 ideal opportunity to reflect on this talented Texan's many  
5 contributions to his community; and

6           WHEREAS, A native of San Antonio, Mr. Leija approached his  
7 career as a fighter with humility and disciplined intelligence, and  
8 his impressive record of athletic accomplishment is all the more  
9 impressive for the steadfast civility, dignity, and character he  
10 brought to his sport; and

11           WHEREAS, After qualifying as an Olympic semifinalist as an  
12 amateur, Mr. Leija went on to a stellar professional career of 47  
13 wins, seven losses, and two draws that included nine title fights  
14 and four fights against the legendary Azumah Nelson; and

15           WHEREAS, Mr. Leija has held several top boxing titles,  
16 including those of WBC World Super Featherweight Champion, IBA  
17 World Lightweight Champion, North American Featherweight Champion,  
18 and North American Lightweight Champion, the last of which he took  
19 twice, and over the course of his career he defeated 15 world-rated  
20 fighters, three Olympians, and four world champions; and

21           WHEREAS, A devoted family man, Mr. Leija is happily married  
22 to his junior high school sweetheart, Lisa, and takes great pride in  
23 their sons, James and Dean, who help their father with his efforts  
24 in behalf of the community; and

1           WHEREAS, His love of children extends beyond his own family,  
2 as is evidenced by his dedication to the completion of the "Miracle  
3 League" baseball field near Wolff Stadium for use by handicapped  
4 youth; and

5           WHEREAS, Great talent in the boxing ring is rare, and even  
6 rarer is that unique combination of athleticism, intelligence, and  
7 heart that is the hallmark of champions both in and out of the ring;  
8 and

9           WHEREAS, "Jesse" James Leija is possessed of these attributes  
10 in no uncertain terms, and through his impressive record of  
11 accomplishment he has secured both his stature as a boxer of note  
12 and as a role model for all who are fortunate enough to know him;  
13 now, therefore, be it

14           RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas  
15 hereby congratulate "Jesse" James Leija on his remarkable career as  
16 a boxer and commend him for his ongoing contributions to the city of  
17 San Antonio; and, be it further

18           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
19 prepared for Mr. Leija as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
20 House of Representatives and Senate.