

By: Blake

H.R. No. 150

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Memories of a life filled with joy and
2 accomplishment may comfort the family and friends of Robert W.
3 Murphey, who died on November 25, 2004; and

4 WHEREAS, A devoted son of Nacogdoches, Bob Murphey was born
5 on July 31, 1921, and graduated from Stephen F. Austin State
6 University and The University of Texas School of Law; after serving
7 in the U.S. Merchant Marines during World War II, he settled into a
8 successful public speaking career, which took him to 44 states,
9 Mexico, and Canada; and

10 WHEREAS, This gregarious Texan won countless awards for his
11 ability to speak so eloquently to groups ranging from the United
12 States Supreme Court to a Grande Ole Opry audience to a local rodeo
13 crowd; the National Speakers Association honored him with its most
14 prestigious accolades, the Cavett Award and the title of *Continuare*
15 *Professus Ariculatis Excellere*; a member of the Speakers Hall of
16 Fame, he also received the Mark Twain Award, presented by the
17 International Platform Association in 1994; and

18 WHEREAS, A man of many talents, Mr. Murphey succeeded in
19 roles as diverse as sergeant-at-arms for the Texas House of
20 Representatives in 1949 and 1951, Nacogdoches county attorney and
21 district attorney, and rancher; he chaired the original fund drive
22 for the Nacogdoches Exposition Center and served as a founding
23 director and a 30-year board member of Fredonia State Bank;
24 dedicated to the betterment of his community, he also distinguished

1 himself as a volunteer firefighter for nearly 40 years and a founder
2 of Grace Bible Church of Nacogdoches; he was named Citizen of the
3 Year by the Nacogdoches Chamber of Commerce, "Texas Best Good Old
4 Boy" by *Texas Monthly*, a distinguished alumni by Stephen F. Austin
5 State University, and a member of the Nacogdoches Heritage
6 Festival's Old Timer's Hall of Fame; and

7 WHEREAS, With his ever-present cowboy attire, Bob Murphey was
8 a much-loved member of his community, and his wry sense of humor,
9 his integrity, and his innumerable contributions to the city of
10 Nacogdoches will not soon be forgotten; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
12 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Robert W. Murphey and
13 extend deepest sympathy to the members of his family: to his
14 daughters, Brenda G. Murphey Williams and her husband, Danny, and
15 Reba Jane Murphey Gayler and her husband, John; to his
16 grandchildren, Hope G. Hazle Swilley and her husband, Phillip,
17 Robert Murphey Gayler, and John Owen Gayler; to his
18 great-grandchild, Rustin; and to the other relatives and many
19 friends of this esteemed gentleman; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
22 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Robert W.
23 Murphey.