

By: Phillips

H.R. No. 804

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Sam Rayburn Library and Museum in Bonham is
2 celebrating its 50th anniversary on December 9, 2005, and this
3 occasion provides an opportunity to take note of the history of this
4 landmark and to honor its esteemed namesake, Speaker Sam Rayburn;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Samuel Taliaferro Rayburn was the longest-serving
7 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives in our
8 nation's history; born near Kingston, Tennessee, in 1882, he moved
9 to Fannin County as a child and attended rural schools before
10 studying law at The University of Texas at Austin; he settled in
11 Bonham, where he practiced law, and served as a member of the Texas
12 House of Representatives; in 1913, he was elected to the U.S.
13 Congress and served 24 consecutive terms until his death in 1961;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, In the 1940s, Speaker Rayburn initiated efforts to
16 build a library to house his books, personal papers, and mementos,
17 and soon after, he established a charitable trust, the Sam Rayburn
18 Foundation, to collect sufficient funds for the new building
19 project; an architect from Dallas, Roscoe DeWitt, offered his
20 services as a donation, and the foundation purchased a plot of land
21 for \$10,000; groundbreaking ceremonies took place on December 10,
22 1955, and the building was completed in 1957; and

23 WHEREAS, This treasured library is a valuable site of
24 American history and a lasting tribute to a great political leader;

1 the building preserves the materials of the Speaker's 48-year
2 political career and includes an exact replica of his office at the
3 U.S. Capitol; the museum houses a rare collection of Congressional
4 and Presidential papers, artifacts, furnishings, and books; and

5 WHEREAS, The Sam Rayburn Library and Museum is a unique
6 monument to regional and national politics during the first half of
7 the 20th century, and it is most fitting to pay tribute to all those
8 who have worked to preserve the building and sustain the legacy of
9 its heralded statesman; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
11 Legislature hereby honor the Sam Rayburn Library and Museum on the
12 occasion of its 50th anniversary and extend sincere best wishes to
13 all those involved with this venerable institution for continued
14 success in their important work.