

By: Rose

H.R. No. 1823

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The dedicated efforts of scholars such as Dr. Ian
2 Hancock have played a vital role in making Texans and citizens
3 around the world aware of important human rights issues; and

4 WHEREAS, A professor of language and linguistics at The
5 University of Texas at Austin, Dr. Hancock teaches courses in the
6 Department of English, the Department of Linguistics, and the
7 Department of Asian Studies; he is also an academic affiliate of the
8 Foreign Language Education Center and the Center for Russian, East
9 European, and Eurasian Studies at UT; and

10 WHEREAS, Born in London, this esteemed scholar earned his
11 Ph.D. at London University and has been a member of the UT faculty
12 since 1972; he is the author of innumerable articles, conference
13 papers, reviews, and monographs and more than 20 books, including
14 *We Are the Romani People*, *A History of the Romanies*, and *A Grammar*
15 *of American Bashaldo Romani*; moreover, he is a published poet; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Hancock's specialty is the study of the Romani
17 people, often referred to as Gypsies, and he is the director of the
18 Romani Archives and Documentation Center, the leading U.S. facility
19 for Romani studies; a member of the four-person delegation that
20 petitioned the United Nations for membership of the International
21 Romani Union in the 1970s, he was elected in 1990 as its U.N.
22 delegate, representing some 12 million Roma throughout the world
23 through their coordinating organizations in 32 countries; and

24 WHEREAS, Professor Hancock was asked to represent the U.S.

1 State Department at meetings with government officials in five
2 Eastern European countries, and in January 2005, he visited the
3 Czech Republic and Slovakia to advise on human rights issues
4 concerning the Roma minorities in those countries; he also serves
5 as chair of the Committee for the Disbursement of Looted Swiss
6 Assets to Roma Survivors and their descendants; and

7 WHEREAS, An expert on the Romani victims of the Holocaust,
8 Dr. Hancock was appointed to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council as
9 its only Romani member and was invited, along with 48 heads of
10 state, to speak in Sweden at the Forum 2000 Conference on the
11 Holocaust; a member of the Anne Frank Institute of the Philadelphia
12 Center on the Holocaust, he was a much-sought-after interview
13 subject in the national and international press in the early 1990s
14 when he protested the forced deportation of Gypsies from Germany;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Hancock has been deservedly recognized around
17 the world for his humanitarian efforts in behalf of the Romani
18 people; he has received the Rafto Human Rights Prize, the Baha'i
19 Church Peace Award, and the UT Humanities Award, to name but a few;
20 he has also been honored for his teaching with the prestigious UT
21 President's Associates Teaching Excellence Award; and

22 WHEREAS, Ian Hancock's work as an educator, scholar, and
23 human rights activist has significantly advanced the study of an
24 important culture and enhanced the lives of Romani people around
25 the world, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge his extraordinary
26 achievements; now, therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas

1 Legislature hereby commend Dr. Ian Hancock for his outstanding
2 academic career and honor him for his contributions to our
3 knowledge, understanding, and compassion for the plight of the
4 Romani people; and, be it further

5 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
6 prepared for Dr. Hancock as an expression of high regard by the
7 Texas House of Representatives.