

By: Dunnam

H.R. No. 1943

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Carroll Hall Shelby, a Texas native, has put an  
2 indelible stamp on the automotive industry through his achievements  
3 as a race car driver, owner, team manager, manufacturer, and  
4 consultant; and

5           WHEREAS, Born in Leesburg on January 11, 1923, Mr. Shelby  
6 graduated from high school in Dallas and served as a flight  
7 instructor and test pilot in the Army Air Corps during World War II;  
8 after the war, he took up several occupations before becoming a  
9 professional race car driver in 1954; and

10           WHEREAS, His first year as a driver, Mr. Shelby broke land  
11 speed records for Austin Healey, and in 1959 he won the 24-hour Le  
12 Mans alongside teammate Roy Salvadori; in 1956 and 1957, *Sports*  
13 *Illustrated* named him Sports Car Driver of the Year, and in 1960 he  
14 won the USAC championship; and

15           WHEREAS, Forced to retire from driving because of his health,  
16 Mr. Shelby formed Shelby-American in 1962 and began work on a car he  
17 named the Cobra; three years later, the Cobra ended Ferrari's  
18 domination of the FIA World Manufacturers' Championship when it  
19 became the only American car ever to take that prize; in 1999, *Motor*  
20 *Trend Magazine* named the original Cobra Roadster as the most  
21 significant car of the past 50 years; and

22           WHEREAS, During the 1960s, Mr. Shelby's racing team also  
23 drove GT40s for Ford in international competition; the team took  
24 first, second, and third place at Le Mans in 1966 and won at Le Mans

1 again in 1967, the same year it secured for Ford the Trans-Am  
2 Manufacturer's title; and

3 WHEREAS, In addition to working with Ford on the GT40 and the  
4 Shelby GT350 and GT500 Mustangs, Mr. Shelby conceived a sports car  
5 for Chrysler that debuted in 1989 as the Viper; while continuing to  
6 develop the Cobra, he has also designed and manufactured the Shelby  
7 Series 1 sports car, and he is presently collaborating with Ford and  
8 with Unique Performance of Farmers Branch to create still other  
9 vehicles; and

10 WHEREAS, Deeply committed to lessening the automobile's  
11 impact on the environment, Mr. Shelby serves today as president of  
12 Advanced Engine Technologies, Inc., where he is leading the  
13 development of a radically new, more environmentally friendly,  
14 internal combustion engine; and

15 WHEREAS, He has also purchased a ranch near Annona, in Red  
16 River County, which he is planning to make his principal residence  
17 and which will give his herd of Tulli cattle room to roam; even  
18 while living on the West Coast, Mr. Shelby maintained a connection  
19 with his Texas roots; notable among his Texas-related ventures have  
20 been the launch of a successful chili company and the inauguration,  
21 with Frank Tolbert, of the Terlingua chili cook-off, now in its 39th  
22 year; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1990, after contending for decades with a serious  
24 heart ailment, Mr. Shelby received a heart transplant; the  
25 following year, he established the Carroll Shelby Children's  
26 Foundation, to provide assistance for acute coronary and kidney  
27 care for indigent children; and

1           WHEREAS, Carroll Shelby was inducted into the International  
2 Motorsports Hall of Fame in 1991 and the Automotive Hall of Fame in  
3 1992; and

4           WHEREAS, An exceptionally talented and accomplished driver,  
5 this legendary Texan has contributed immeasurably to the  
6 advancement of automotive design and technology, and through his  
7 concern for the larger good he is touching the lives of people  
8 around the world; now, therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
10 Legislature hereby honor Carroll Hall Shelby for his lifetime  
11 achievements and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued  
12 success in all his endeavors; and, be it further

13           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
14 prepared for Mr. Shelby as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
15 House of Representatives.