

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texas is home to numerous authors and poets who have
2 earned international acclaim for their work, but one of our state's
3 most unique and prolific authors, Missy Jones Thistlewood, remains
4 unknown to all but a few devotees of her unusual literary milieu;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Melissa Elizabeth Jones was born in Lubbock in 1912,
7 and while growing up on her family's cotton farm, she could hardly
8 have guessed the unusual turns her life would take; she began dating
9 Arthur Thistlewood while the two were still in high school, and
10 despite admonitions from friends about the nature of her future
11 name, she married him soon after graduation; and

12 WHEREAS, Mrs. Melissa Elizabeth Thistlewood then endured
13 much good-natured teasing from family and friends about her
14 difficult name, and this initiated her lifelong fascination with
15 tongue twisters; when the economic pressures of the Great
16 Depression made it difficult for her and Arthur to support their two
17 young children, Mrs. Missy Thistlewood put her hobby to good use,
18 and with money borrowed from her parents, she published her first
19 book of tongue twisters; and

20 WHEREAS, From such seemingly simple sentences as "Plain bun,
21 plum bun, bun without plum" to the more difficult "There was a
22 little witch which switched from Chichester to Ipswich" to the
23 fiendishly difficult "Miss Smith's fish-sauce shop seldom sells
24 shellfish," Mrs. Thistlewood's book included a vast collection of

1 alliterative literary twists and onomatopoeic monstrosities, and
2 it quickly became a tremendous success; and

3 WHEREAS, To this day, her favorite creation is the one that
4 was inspired by a variation of her own name; for the past 60 years,
5 generations of American children have struggled to recite:
6 "Theophilus Thadeus Thistledown, the successful thistle-sifter,
7 while sifting a sieve-full of unsifted thistles, thrust three
8 thousand thistles through the thick of his thumb; Now, if
9 Theophilus Thadeus Thistledown, the successful thistle-sifter,
10 thrust three thousand thistles through the thick of his thumb, See
11 that thou, while sifting a sieve-full of unsifted thistles, thrust
12 not three thousand thistles through the thick of thy thumb"; and

13 WHEREAS, Mrs. Melissa Elizabeth Thistlewood, if she were in
14 fact a real person, would undoubtedly join the Texas House of
15 Representatives in lauding the elocutionary expertise and
16 pronouncedly proficient pronunciation with which our reading
17 clerks have read this resolution and thousands of other legislative
18 documents in the course of the 79th Legislative Session, and it is
19 to be hoped they will accept this good-natured tribute as an
20 expression of deepest appreciation and esteem from the members of
21 this chamber; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
23 Legislature hereby honor Elisa Klein and Brian Gehr for their
24 dedicated service as reading clerks and extend to them warmest best
25 wishes for continued success and happiness in all their future
26 endeavors; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

H.R. No. 2316

1 prepared for this dynamic duo as an expression of highest regard by
2 the Texas House of Representatives.

Edwards

Craddick	Geren	Menendez
Allen of Harris	Giddings	Merritt
Allen of Dallas	Gonzales	Miller
Alonzo	Gonzalez Toureilles	Moreno of Harris
Anchia	Goodman	Moreno of El Paso
Anderson	Goolsby	Morrison
Bailey	Griggs	Mowery
Baxter	Grusendorf	Naishtat
Berman	Guillen	Nixon
Blake	Haggerty	Noriega
Bohac	Hamilton	Oliveira
Bonnen	Hamric	Olivo
Branch	Hardcastle	Orr
Brown of Kaufman	Harper-Brown	Otto
Brown of Brazos	Hartnett	Paxton
Burnam	Hegar	Pena
Callegari	Herrero	Phillips
Campbell	Hilderbran	Pickett
Casteel	Hill	Pitts
Castro	Hochberg	Puente
Chavez	Hodge	Quintanilla
Chisum	Homer	Raymond
Coleman	Hope	Reyna
Cook of Navarro	Hopson	Riddle
Cook of Colorado	Howard	Ritter
Corte	Hughes	Rodriguez
Crabb	Hunter	Rose
Crownover	Hupp	Seaman
Davis of Harris	Isett	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Dallas	Jackson	Smith of Harris
Dawson	Jones of Lubbock	Smithee
Delisi	Jones of Dallas	Solis
Denny	Keel	Solomons
Deshotel	Keffer of Dallas	Strama
Driver	Keffer of Eastland	Straus
Dukes	King of Parker	Swinford
Dunnam	King of Zavala	Talton
Dutton	Kolkhorst	Taylor
Edwards	Krusee	Thompson
Eiland	Kuempel	Truitt
Eissler	Laney	Turner
Elkins	Laubenberg	Uresti
Escobar	Leibowitz	Van Arsdale
Farabee	Luna	Veasey
Farrar	Madden	Villarreal
Flores	Martinez	Vo
Flynn	Martinez Fischer	West
Frost	McCall	Wong
Gallego	McClendon	Woolley
Gattis	McReynolds	Zedler

H.R. No. 2316

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2316 was adopted by the House on May 30, 2005, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House