

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1074

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join the citizens of Oldham County in recognizing Sam Brown for his literary contributions to the Western heritage of Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, Sam Brown was born in 1945 in Amarillo, but was brought home to the edge of the caprock, five miles west of Adrian; his mother was the oldest resident of Oldham County who had been born there, and his father arrived in the county in 1928, driving 40 head of workhorses and mules when he was 14 years old; and

**WHEREAS**, Sam began learning wrangling skills as a young boy; he was only eight when he was paid five dollars for helping his father work some cattle; when Sam was 14, his father took over the management of the 72,000-acre Masten Ranch; and

**WHEREAS**, He graduated from Adrian High School in 1963 and from West Texas State University in 1967; after college graduation, he taught school for a year in Silverton before joining the army; he served a tour of duty in Vietnam before returning to Oldham County and his life as a cowboy in 1970; and

**WHEREAS**, In the 35 years since his return, Sam has spent most of the time working as a full-time cowboy and also spent many summers traveling across the United States as he competed in rodeos; and

**WHEREAS**, He uses the time in the saddle to work on his stories; twice he has been selected by the Texas Folklife Society to represent Texas at the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada; and

**WHEREAS**, Drawing on his heritage and experience, Sam Brown has written six Western novels for Walker and Company in New York; his first novel, *The Long Season*, was set in Oldham County in the 1880s and was chosen runner-up for the best first novel from Western Writers of America; *The Big Lonely*, another Oldham County novel, was chosen as runner-up for the best Western novel of the year; and

**WHEREAS**, Sam spent the winter of 2005 on Four Way Ranch, and each spring he helps during branding season on seven Oldham County ranches; the way work is done today has not changed much since he was a boy, and traditional cowboy skills are still needed; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby commend Sam Brown for his contributions to the culture and the literature of the Old West; and, be it further

S.R. No. 1074

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 29, 2005.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate