

By: Branch

H.R. No. 1455

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family, friends, and admirers of the Dallas Cowboys  
2 are mourning the loss of Wilford "Crazy Ray" Jones, the team's  
3 unofficial mascot and greatest fan for 44 years, who passed away on  
4 March 17, 2007, at the age of 76; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in 1931 in Nacogdoches, Wilford Jones moved to  
6 Dallas in 1953, after serving his country in the Korean War; the  
7 following year he married his lifetime companion, Mattie; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Jones entertained Cowboys fans from the team's  
9 third season in 1962, when the team was still playing in the Cotton  
10 Bowl; performing in a cowboy hat, blue suede chaps, and white cowboy  
11 boots, Mr. Jones entertained the fans from the sidelines during  
12 games; his energetic antics included doing magic tricks, making  
13 balloon animals, and galloping on a stick horse named "Bo-Bo," all  
14 of which earned him the nickname "Crazy Ray"; and

15 WHEREAS, Although he was never officially an employee of  
16 Dallas Cowboys organization, Mr. Wilford became an iconic and  
17 beloved figure at Cowboys games over the years, known for his mock  
18 fights with the mascots of other teams and for the loud whistle he  
19 often blew, which earned him his other nickname, "Whistling Ray";  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Until ill health limited his activities, "Crazy Ray"  
22 missed only three Cowboys home games, remaining a loyal Cowboys fan  
23 until the end of his life; he has been honored in the fans' wing of  
24 the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio; and

1           WHEREAS, For more than 40 years, Wilford "Crazy Ray" Jones  
2 embodied the high spirits of America's Team and its fans; his  
3 generous gift of passion and fun have made him a beloved figure, and  
4 he will long be remembered by all who love the Cowboys; now,  
5 therefore, be it

6           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
7 Legislature hereby honor the memory of Wilford Jones and offer  
8 sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his wife of 53  
9 years, Mattie; to his brothers, Paul Jones and Jerry Jones; to his  
10 sister, Eugenia Gibson; to his grandsons, Derrick Jackson and  
11 Darryl Jackson; and to his other family and friends; and, be it  
12 further

13           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
14 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
15 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Wilford  
16 "Crazy Ray" Jones.