

By: Latham

H.R. No. 1932

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The 2007 Mesquite Championship Rodeo marks the 50th
2 anniversary of this celebrated North Texas event; and

3 WHEREAS, The Mesquite rodeo began as a result of the efforts
4 of Neal Gay, a World War II veteran and rodeo competitor who saw the
5 benefit of an annual stationary rodeo; along with his partners, Jim
6 Shoulders, D. J. "Kajun Kidd" Gaudin, Harry Tompkins, Ira Akers,
7 and Bob Grant, Mr. Gay purchased the Pleasant Mound Rodeo,
8 relocating and renaming it the Mesquite Championship Rodeo; and

9 WHEREAS, Under Mr. Gay's leadership, the inaugural rodeo was
10 held in 1958; in the 1960s and 1970s, with the addition of an arena
11 roof and the construction of Interstate Highway 635, the rodeo grew
12 in popularity, and by the mid-1980s ESPN had begun televising
13 Mesquite rodeo performances; another important milestone occurred
14 in 1985, when ground was broken for the new and updated Resistol
15 Arena, the rodeo's present home; and

16 WHEREAS, The Mesquite Championship Rodeo was acquired by Tom
17 Hicks in 1999 but continues to be managed by Mr. Gay and his family,
18 which includes his wife, Kay, and his sons, Jim, Pete, and Don; all
19 three sons competed successfully in rodeo competitions, and Neal
20 and Don Gay became the first father-son team inducted into the Pro
21 Rodeo Hall of Fame; and

22 WHEREAS, Designated the "Rodeo Capital of Texas" in 1993,
23 Mesquite continues to draw thousands of visitors to this
24 family-friendly and exciting annual event including such

1 luminaries as Prince Rainier of Monaco and Presidents Ronald Reagan
2 and George W. Bush; rodeo entertainment ranges from bull riding and
3 steer wrestling to cowboy poker and a kids' calf scramble; and

4 WHEREAS, The Mesquite Championship Rodeo stands as a
5 testament to the dedication and hard work of Neal Gay and his
6 family, and this beloved Texas institution will surely continue to
7 delight legions of devoted fans; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
9 Legislature hereby commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Mesquite
10 Championship Rodeo in 2007 and extend to all those associated with
11 the event best wishes for continued success.