

By: Hilderbran

H.R. No. 39

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The life of a renowned artist and horseman drew to a  
2 close with the passing of Jim Reno of Kerrville on November 1, 2008,  
3 at the age of 79; and

4           WHEREAS, Considered to be one of the world's top sculptors of  
5 equestrian subjects, Mr. Reno created monumental bronze images of  
6 famous racehorses as well as a variety of western-themed works; his  
7 knowledge of his subjects came from firsthand experience, and he  
8 enjoyed a successful career as a trainer of cutting horses in  
9 addition to his accomplishments as an artist; and

10          WHEREAS, Mr. Reno was born on March 14, 1929, in Wheeling,  
11 West Virginia, and was raised in Indiana; his love of horses began  
12 at age seven, when he got a job cleaning stalls at the county  
13 fairgrounds, and his fascination with the animals later inspired  
14 him to depict them in drawings and wood carvings; his talent earned  
15 him a scholarship to the John Herron Art Institute in Indianapolis,  
16 where he completed his formal studies; and

17          WHEREAS, Following his graduation in 1952, he headed for the  
18 Lone Star State, hoping to become a full-time artist; when  
19 commissions failed to materialize, he supported himself as a horse  
20 trainer, and his work with cutting horses became an important and  
21 enduring part of his life; he won acclaim for winning steeds such as  
22 Madida, Sab, and Shorty Lena, and he and his wife, Mary Jo,  
23 ultimately built a respected training operation at their ranch in  
24 Kerrville; Mr. Reno was a prominent figure in the National Cutting

1 Horse Association, serving as president and as a member of the  
2 executive board, and he was inducted into the NCHA Hall of Fame; and

3 WHEREAS, His success as an artist required perseverance, but  
4 in time, word of his abilities began to spread; his major  
5 breakthrough came in 1973, when he was commissioned by the owner of  
6 racehorse Secretariat to create a monument to the Triple Crown  
7 winner; a second statue that he made of the famed Thoroughbred  
8 stands at the entrance to the Kentucky Horse Park, and other pieces  
9 by Mr. Reno are found at the headquarters of the American Quarter  
10 Horse Association in Amarillo, on the Texas Walk of Heroes at Sea  
11 World in San Antonio, and at the Houston Astrodome; in total, he  
12 completed 16 large-scale sculptures as well as numerous smaller  
13 ones that are prized by collectors; and

14 WHEREAS, Through his lifelong love of horses and the western  
15 culture they symbolize, Jim Reno realized many notable achievements  
16 in two fields of endeavor, and he leaves behind a wealth of  
17 inspiring artwork to be appreciated by his fellow Texans; now,  
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Jim Reno and extend  
21 sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his wife, Mary  
22 Jo Schrock Reno; to his children, Kathy Boone and her husband, Dan,  
23 Jimmy Reno and his wife, Carmen, Johnny Reno and his wife, Amy,  
24 Charlie Coon and his wife, Caryn, Mike Coon, and Scotty Eisaman and  
25 his wife, Tami; to his grandchildren, Kelly Reina, Jill Smetek,  
26 Jodie Cerny, Travis Reno, Tyler Reno, Kendall Coon, Cyndi Coon, and  
27 Marty Boone; to his great-grandchildren, Bailey Reina, Rylee Reina,

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1 Chance Cerny, Cassie Cerny, and Julie Smetek; and to his other  
2 relatives and friends; and, be it further

3         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
4 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
5 Representatives adjourns this day it do so in memory of Jim Reno.