

By: Miller of Erath

H.R. No. 985

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, More than one town claims to be the "Cowboy Capital  
2 of the World," but Stephenville can surely strengthen its case by  
3 virtue of its status as the hometown of Whit Keeney, who has resided  
4 in Erath County for all of his 92 years and continues to embody the  
5 true spirit of pioneer Texas; and

6           WHEREAS, A member of the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame, Mr.  
7 Keeney holds a gold card from the Professional Rodeo Cowboys  
8 Association and has won 37 trophy saddles; in addition, he won eight  
9 consecutive all-around championships at the National Old Timers  
10 Rodeo and was inducted into the Stephenville Cowboy Capital Walk of  
11 Fame in 1999; and

12           WHEREAS, His immense skill at roping and bulldogging made a  
13 lasting impression on countless observers, among them a young  
14 neighbor; years later she vividly recalled as "almost magical" the  
15 way Mr. Keeney worked with his horse and his dogs to pen and load a  
16 Holstein bull that had attacked her grandfather and brother; Mr.  
17 Keeney also raised and trained border collies and entertained with  
18 them at rodeos; and

19           WHEREAS, In North Central and Central Texas, several  
20 generations of youngsters grew up idolizing Mr. Keeney; they  
21 learned the cowboy trade by watching him work livestock and rope  
22 everything from a wild cow to a pig, and even a housecat or two, as  
23 easily as taking a casual sip of coffee; early in his career, he  
24 roped with Will Rogers at the Texas Cowboy Reunion, which was

1 founded in Stamford in 1930 to preserve the cowboy way of life;  
2 still doing his part for preservation more than half a century  
3 later, Mr. Keeney could be found out in the countryside roping  
4 cattle when he was a few decades past Social Security retirement  
5 age; and

6 WHEREAS, This quintessential Texan has been described as "a  
7 real character as well as a real cowboy," and his friends and  
8 admirers cherish his distinctive sense of humor and endearing  
9 personality; the Lone Star State takes great pride in its frontier  
10 heritage and rugged individualism, and Whit Keeney exemplifies  
11 both; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
13 Legislature hereby recognize Whit Keeney of Stephenville for his  
14 myriad accomplishments and extend to him sincere best wishes for  
15 continued happiness; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
17 prepared for Mr. Keeney as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
18 House of Representatives.