

By: Farabee

H.R. No. 1249

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The death of auto racing legend Lloyd Ruby on March  
2 23, 2009, at the age of 81, has deeply saddened his many fans across  
3 the country and brought a great loss to the family and friends of  
4 this beloved Texan; and

5           WHEREAS, A lifelong resident of Wichita Falls, Richard Lloyd  
6 Ruby was born on January 12, 1928, to Walter and Roxie Ruby; he  
7 started racing midget cars as a teenager and then proudly served his  
8 country in the United States Army; on his birthday in 1954, he  
9 married the former Peggy Harris, and the couple later became the  
10 parents of two children; and

11           WHEREAS, Mr. Ruby excelled at long-distance road racing,  
12 winning seven United States Auto Club championships; he was a key  
13 member of Ford Motor Company's international racing effort and  
14 shared the winning car in the 1965 Daytona Continental, as well as  
15 in the renowned 24 Hours of Daytona and 12 Hours of Sebring  
16 endurance races in 1966; and

17           WHEREAS, Between 1960 and 1977, Mr. Ruby competed in 18  
18 consecutive Indianapolis 500 races, and was repeatedly a strong  
19 contender, though victory eluded him; he led the field in five Indy  
20 races between 1966 and 1971, only to be thwarted by mechanical  
21 problems or other mishaps; his hard luck never seemed to faze him,  
22 however, and even after a heartbreaking pit stop incident that took  
23 him out of a comfortable lead in 1969, he merely remarked that  
24 "maybe I wasn't supposed to win"; though he never finished higher

1 than third, he nonetheless became a hero to countless fans and  
2 younger drivers such as Bobby Unser, one of the many to name Mr.  
3 Ruby as "the greatest driver who never won the 500"; and

4 WHEREAS, Unassuming and quiet, yet unfailingly warm and  
5 friendly, he became one of the most popular drivers of his era; he  
6 loved his fans as much as they loved him, and he always took the time  
7 to talk and joke with them; he was greatly admired by his peers in  
8 the racing industry as well, and when a Wichita Falls overpass was  
9 named in his honor, Indy 500 winners Al and Bobby Unser, Johnny  
10 Rutherford, and Parnelli Jones all traveled to attend the ceremony  
11 and help him celebrate; and

12 WHEREAS, The Indianapolis 500 Hall of Fame inducted Mr. Ruby  
13 in 1991 and gave him its prestigious Louis Meyer Award in 2008; in  
14 addition, he was a member of the Indy 500 Old Timers Club, the  
15 Midget Auto Racing Hall of Fame, and the Texas Motor Speedway Hall  
16 of Fame; no accolade altered his humble demeanor, and he remained  
17 close to old schoolmates and childhood friends throughout his life;  
18 a member of organizations such as the Mavericks, the Lions Club, and  
19 the Texas Chapter of Speedway Children's Charities, he assisted  
20 without fanfare in myriad philanthropic events in Wichita Falls and  
21 frequently shared his formidable talent as a barbecue cook at  
22 church functions; and

23 WHEREAS, A fierce yet gracious competitor, Lloyd Ruby gave  
24 racing fans years of excitement, and he will long be remembered for  
25 his kindness and good humor as well as for his extraordinary skill  
26 on the racetrack; now, therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas

1 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Lloyd Ruby and extend  
2 sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife, Peggy  
3 Ruby; to his son, John Ruby, and his wife, Pam; to his daughter,  
4 Mary Ann Brasher, and her husband, Phil; to his grandchildren,  
5 Tyler, Paige, and Allison Ruby, and Luke and Bo Brasher; to his  
6 brother, Herman Ruby; and to his other relatives and his many  
7 friends and admirers; and, be it further

8         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
9 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
10 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Lloyd Ruby.