

By: Turner of Tarrant

H.R. No. 2104

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Pioneering barrel racer and horse trainer Nelda
2 Patton of Mansfield was inducted into the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of
3 Fame in March 2009; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of Teague, Mrs. Patton learned rodeo riding
5 and horse training from her father, Carter Wills; she began
6 competing in barrel racing at a young age, winning her first event
7 at the age of eight; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1951, she married Bill Patton and moved with him
9 to Oklahoma, taking time away from the sport to raise a family; and

10 WHEREAS, The Pattons returned to Texas in 1961, and Mrs.
11 Patton soon began racing again; she won the Texas Barrel Racing
12 Association title in 1963 and again in 1968; moreover, she was
13 reserve champion six times and consistently finished among the top
14 17 competitors throughout her career; she also took top honors in
15 the event at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo in 1968; and

16 WHEREAS, Mrs. Patton has long been recognized as a top horse
17 trainer, and more than 30 horses have benefited from her expertise
18 to become champion barrel-racing mounts; now 75, she continued to
19 train horses until 2007 and to compete as a barrel racer into the
20 1990s; and

21 WHEREAS, Mrs. Patton also played a vital role in the creation
22 of the Texas Barrel Racing Association and has been instrumental in
23 introducing many young women to the sport of barrel racing; and

24 WHEREAS, For more than six decades, Nelda Patton has been a

1 pioneer and a champion in her sport, as well as an inspiration to
2 younger generations of riders, and she is indeed deserving of this
3 prestigious recognition; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
5 Legislature hereby congratulate Nelda Patton on her induction into
6 the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame and honor her for her remarkable
7 career; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for Mrs. Patton as an expression of high regard by the
10 Texas House of Representatives.