

By: Smithee

H.R. No. 210

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State lost an accomplished native son
2 with the passing of Western craftsman Jerry Cates of Amarillo on
3 June 3, 2011, at the age of 72; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on June 7, 1938, in Foard County to James and
5 Lillian Cates, Jerry Cates grew up on his family's farm and ranch
6 and knew at an early age that he wanted to be a cowboy; he graduated
7 from Crowell High School and served in the United States Army from
8 1956 to 1958 before moving to Amarillo the following year; he lived
9 and worked on the LX Ranch for eight years and then became a brand
10 inspector at the Amarillo Livestock Auction for the Texas and
11 Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association as well as an apprentice
12 gunsmith under Gene Davis; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1969, he and his friend Bill Handley began
14 working on bits and spurs, and Mr. Cates soon earned the
15 appreciation of area cowboys for his mastery of ironwork and
16 intricate engraving; influenced by renowned Western craftsman
17 Adolph Bayers, he became more widely known after his creations were
18 selected for inclusion in juried art shows and at rodeos and other
19 special events; he launched his own business in 1979, using 150
20 different styles for spurs and 40 patterns for bits and engraving
21 every piece by hand; and

22 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan received commissions from
23 collectors worldwide, and his work has been featured in many
24 publications, including *Cowboys and Indians* and *Western Horseman*

1 magazines, Nordstrom's catalogs, and books on Western artistry; he
2 was the recipient of multiple awards and will be posthumously
3 inducted into the Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2012; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Cates was a generous supporter of philanthropic
5 efforts to help cowboys and families in crisis in the Panhandle and
6 South Plains regions; in addition, he donated spurs to the Texas and
7 Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and served on the Women's
8 Protective Services annual spur auction committee; widely admired
9 by his fellow artisans, he was treasurer of the Texas Style Bit and
10 Spur Association, was a founding member of the Texas Spur Makers
11 Guild, served on a nominating committee for a national bit, spur,
12 and saddle makers' association, and was active in an apprenticeship
13 program for spur makers; and

14 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Mr. Cates enjoyed the love
15 and support of his wife of 50 years, Janet "Perky" Cates, with whom
16 he had three children, Yancy, Fritzi, and Heath, as well as six
17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; and

18 WHEREAS, A skilled artist who worked to benefit his community
19 and to promote the traditional crafts of the American West, Jerry
20 Cates will long be remembered by all those who had the good fortune
21 to know him; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
23 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
24 Jerry Cates and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his
25 family: to his wife, Perky Cates; to his children, Yancy Crim and
26 her husband, Marty, Fritzi Cates, and Heath Cates and his wife,
27 Gayla; to his grandchildren, Miles, Haley, Quinton, Brittany,

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1 Megan, and Ryan; to his great-grandchildren, Bentlye and Blayklee;
2 and to his other 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 Jerry
6 Cates.