

By: Harless

H.R. No. 171

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texas golf legend Jack Burke, Jr., has been named
2 the winner of the 2011 William D. Richardson Award by the Golf
3 Writers Association of America, in recognition of his outstanding
4 contributions to the sport; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Fort Worth in 1923, Jack Burke began
6 learning the game at age seven, tutored by his father, who was the
7 pro at the River Oaks Country Club in Houston; Mr. Burke became a
8 club pro himself at age 18 but put his career on hold to serve in the
9 U.S. Marine Corps during World War II; and

10 WHEREAS, In the years following the war, professional golf
11 was initially dominated by older players, but Mr. Burke changed
12 that, winning four PGA tournaments in 1950 at the age of 27; two
13 years later, he won four consecutive tournaments and went on to
14 compile a career total of 16 victories, including first-place
15 finishes in both the Masters Tournament and the PGA Championship in
16 1956; he played on the American Ryder Cup team throughout the 1950s,
17 was its nonplaying captain in 1973, and served as a special
18 assistant to the team captain in 2004; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Burke's prominent role in the game has extended
20 beyond his stellar performances on the course; in 1957, he and
21 another well-known Texas golfer, Jimmy Demaret, opened the
22 Champions Golf Club in Houston; through the years, the club has
23 hosted the Ryder Cup, the U.S. Open, and the U.S. Amateur
24 Championship in addition to numerous other tournaments; Mr. Burke

1 has also served as a coach to younger PGA players, including current
2 star Phil Mickelson; and

3 WHEREAS, Widely admired by his peers, Mr. Burke has been
4 inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame, the PGA Hall of Fame, the
5 Texas Sports Hall of Fame, and the Texas Golf Hall of Fame;
6 moreover, he received the PGA Tour Lifetime Achievement Award in
7 2003 and the United States Golf Association Bob Jones Award in 2004;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The William D. Richardson Award is yet another
10 well-deserved accolade for Jack Burke; this esteemed Texan has
11 inspired generations of players with his skill, determination, and
12 knowledge of the sport, and his achievements have furthered the
13 rich golfing tradition of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
15 Legislature hereby congratulate Jack Burke, Jr., on receiving the
16 2011 William D. Richardson Award from the Golf Writers Association
17 of America and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued
18 happiness; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for Mr. Burke as an expression of high regard by the Texas
21 House of Representatives.