

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 novelist and journalist Elmer Kelton of San  
3 Angelo on August 22, 2009, at the age of 83; and

4           WHEREAS, Born on April 29, 1926, at Horse Camp in Andrews  
5 County, Elmer Stephen Kelton was descended from cowboys and  
6 ranchers; his great-grandfather came to West Texas in the 1870s  
7 with a covered wagon and a string of horses, and his father, Robert  
8 William "Buck" Kelton, was the foreman and eventual manager of the  
9 McElroy Ranch in Crane and Upton Counties; and

10           WHEREAS, Elmer Kelton was the oldest of four sons and, by his  
11 own admission, the worst cowboy of the bunch; he decided at an early  
12 age that if he couldn't be a cowboy, he would at least write about  
13 them, and he was encouraged in this endeavor by his mother, Neta  
14 Beatrice "Bea" Kelton, a former schoolteacher; he entered The  
15 University of Texas at Austin at the age of 16 and enrolled in  
16 journalism classes; and

17           WHEREAS, In the mid-1940s, Mr. Kelton served in Europe as an  
18 infantryman during the final months of World War II; while  
19 stationed in Austria, he met his future wife, Anni Lipp, whom he  
20 married in 1947; he went on to earn his bachelor's degree in  
21 journalism from UT the following year; and

22           WHEREAS, Mr. Kelton was the farm-and-ranch editor for the *San*  
23 *Angelo Standard-Times* from 1948 to 1963; he later spent five years  
24 as associate editor of *Sheep and Goat Raisers' Magazine* and more

1 than two decades as editor of *Livestock Weekly* before retiring in  
2 1990; and

3 WHEREAS, His career as a Western writer began in 1948, when he  
4 sold a story to *Ranch Romances* magazine for \$50; he published his  
5 first novel, *Hot Iron*, in 1955, and writing mainly in his spare  
6 time, he went on to author or contribute to more than 60 books,  
7 including several volumes of Western art, a memoir, *Sandhills Boy*,  
8 and many works of fiction; and

9 WHEREAS, Insightful portrayals of West Texans, Mr. Kelton's  
10 novels were admired by readers and critics alike for their keen  
11 attention to detail, moral complexity, and psychological realism;  
12 he wasn't interested in writing simplistic Western characters who  
13 were "seven feet tall and invincible," he once said, adding, "my  
14 characters are five-eight and nervous"; and

15 WHEREAS, In *The Time It Never Rained*, he vividly evoked the  
16 struggles of a rancher during a devastating drought in the 1950s; in  
17 *The Good Old Boys*, which was made into a television movie directed  
18 by and starring Tommy Lee Jones, he told the story of an aging  
19 cowboy grappling with changing times at the turn of the 20th  
20 century; and

21 WHEREAS, Often bestsellers, his books also won numerous  
22 accolades; seven of his titles earned the Spur Award from the  
23 Western Writers of America, and three received Western Heritage  
24 Awards from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum; Mr.  
25 Kelton himself was honored with both the Owen Wister Award for  
26 lifetime achievement and the Lone Star Award for Lifetime  
27 Achievement from the Larry McMurry Center for Arts and Humanities

1 at Midwestern State University; in 1995, he was voted the best  
2 Western writer of all time by members of the Western Writers of  
3 America; and

4 WHEREAS, Throughout a long and prolific career, Mr. Kelton  
5 enjoyed the love and support of his wife of 62 years as well as their  
6 three children, Gary, Stephen, and Kathy; moreover, his family  
7 included four grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and a  
8 great-great-granddaughter; and

9 WHEREAS, Elmer Kelton wrote with deep reverence and  
10 compassion about the people and landscape he loved; whether he was  
11 evoking the stark beauty of the high plains or the pride and dignity  
12 of hardworking people, he celebrated a rich culture and left a  
13 lasting legacy that will endure as long as the wind blows over West  
14 Texas; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
16 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life and accomplishments of  
17 Elmer Kelton; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
19 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
20 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Elmer  
21 Kelton.

Darby

Straus	Gonzales of Williamson	Morrison
Aliseda	Gonzalez	Munoz, Jr.
Allen	Gooden	Murphy
Alonzo	Guillen	Naishtat
Alvarado	Gutierrez	Nash
Anchia	Hamilton	Oliveira
Anderson of Dallas	Hancock	Orr
Anderson of McLennan	Hardcastle	Otto
Aycock	Harless	Parker
Beck	Harper-Brown	Patrick
Berman	Hartnett	Paxton
Bohac	Hernandez Luna	Pena
Bonnen	Hilderbran	Perry
Branch	Hochberg	Phillips
Brown	Hopson	Pickett
Burkett	Howard of Fort Bend	Pitts
Burnam	Howard of Travis	Price
Button	Huberty	Quintanilla
Cain	Hughes	Raymond
Callegari	Hunter	Reynolds
Carter	Isaac	Riddle
Castro	Jackson	Ritter
Chisum	Johnson	Rodriguez
Christian	Keffer	Schwertner
Coleman	King of Parker	Scott
Cook	King of Taylor	Sheets
Craddick	King of Zavala	Sheffield
Creighton	Kleinschmidt	Shelton
Crownover	Kolkhorst	Simpson
Darby	Kuempel	Smith of Harris
Davis of Dallas	Landtroop	Smith of Tarrant
J. Davis of Harris	Larson	Smithee
S. Davis of Harris	Laubenberg	Solomons
Deshotel	Lavender	Strama
Driver	Legler	Taylor of Collin
Dukes	Lewis	Taylor of Galveston
Dutton	Lozano	Thompson
Eiland	Lucio III	Torres
Eissler	Lyne	Truitt
Elkins	Madden	Turner
Farias	Mallory Caraway	Veasey
Farrar	Margo	Villarreal
Fletcher	Marquez	Vo
Flynn	Martinez	Walle
Frullo	Martinez Fischer	Weber
Gallego	McClendon	White
Garza	Menendez	Woolley
Geren	Miles	Workman
Giddings	Miller of Comal	Zedler
Gonzales of Hidalgo	Miller of Erath	Zerwas

H.R. No. 686

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 686 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 17, 2011.

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Chief Clerk of the House