

By: Crownover

H.R. No. 968

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The late Sammie Jean Estes has been nominated for
2 induction into the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame; and

3 WHEREAS, Founded in 1975, the National Cowgirl Museum and
4 Hall of Fame in Fort Worth is dedicated to honoring and documenting
5 the lives of women who exemplify the spirit of the American West;
6 with a mission to preserve the history and impact of western women
7 living from the mid-1800s to the present, the Hall of Fame includes
8 nearly 200 artists, writers, entertainers, competitive performers,
9 ranchers, and others who have contributed to this distinctive
10 region; and

11 WHEREAS, Posthumously nominated to join this esteemed group,
12 "Sweet" Estes discovered a lifelong passion for horses at the age of
13 11, when she purchased her first pony for two dollars and began
14 charging neighborhood children a nickel to ride to the corner and a
15 dime to ride around the block; and

16 WHEREAS, Ms. Estes earned enough money to buy more horses,
17 and by 1941, she and her family had a stable of 15; the income from
18 her riding business paid for her college education as well as her
19 sister's; while a student at the University of North Texas in
20 Denton, Ms. Estes sponsored the Los Caballeros Riding Club and
21 taught her fellow students riding and horsemanship, as well as
22 classes on the anatomy and care of a horse; in addition to
23 instructing courses and keeping up with her own studies, she bred
24 many registered horses, and her "Double Dollar" brand could be

1 found on many fine quarter horses; and

2 WHEREAS, Ms. Estes earned both her bachelor's and her
3 master's degrees in physical education at UNT; for nearly five
4 decades, she taught horseback riding, backpacking, and wilderness
5 camping to students at UNT and at Texas Woman's University; and

6 WHEREAS, She also leased her horses for many years to summer
7 camps across Texas and Colorado and beyond, serving many of them as
8 a riding instructor; along the way, this inspiring woman managed to
9 overcome tuberculosis and to acquire her dream home, a 30-acre
10 property called Lone Chimney, in Colorado; it was there that she
11 passed away on August 16, 1989; and

12 WHEREAS, Sweet Estes shared her love of horses with
13 generations of young people; she lived an extraordinary life that
14 embodied the independence, character, and indomitable spirit of the
15 American cowgirl, and she is most deserving of this special honor;
16 now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
18 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Sweet Estes on the
19 occasion of her posthumous nomination to the National Cowgirl
20 Museum and Hall of Fame.