

By: Branch

H.R. No. 2246

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The life of a legendary sports broadcaster drew to a  
2 close with the passing of Pat Summerall on April 16, 2013, at the  
3 age of 82; and

4           WHEREAS, George Allen Summerall was born in Florida on May  
5 10, 1930; nicknamed "Pat" by his aunt and uncle, Mr. Summerall was a  
6 gifted multisport athlete in high school; he went on to play  
7 football, basketball, and baseball at the University of Arkansas,  
8 where he earned a bachelor's degree in education and, later, a  
9 master's degree in Russian history; and

10           WHEREAS, Selected by the Detroit Lions in the 1952 National  
11 Football League draft, Mr. Summerall spent one year with that team  
12 and five seasons with the Chicago Cardinals before joining the New  
13 York Giants in 1958; though he sometimes played as a tight end or  
14 defensive end, he became best known as a placekicker, and during his  
15 first year with New York, he kicked a game-winning field goal in a  
16 snowstorm to lead the team to the playoffs; he competed in three NFL  
17 championship games with the Giants, and he retired after the 1961  
18 season, having scored 563 points during his 10 years in the league;  
19 and

20           WHEREAS, Mr. Summerall got his start as an announcer at CBS  
21 Radio, where he was hired to voice short feature stories while still  
22 with the Giants; after concluding his playing career, he began  
23 broadcasting NFL games, and during his more than 40 years in the  
24 booth, he became one of the most popular announcers in professional

1 sports; known as "the voice of football," Mr. Summerall covered 37  
2 NFL seasons, including 16 Super Bowls, and he was part of two famous  
3 partnerships, working with Tom Brookshier in the 1970s and with  
4 John Madden from 1981 to 2001; his understated style and  
5 authoritative tone perfectly balanced Mr. Madden's lively and  
6 detailed delivery, and the duo produced numerous memorable  
7 broadcasts, including Super Bowl XVI, the most-watched game in NFL  
8 history; Mr. Summerall also served as an announcer for other  
9 sports, calling 26 Masters Championships in golf and 21 U.S. Open  
10 tennis tournaments; and

11 WHEREAS, He retired from broadcasting in 2002, having earned  
12 numerous accolades; he was named National Sportscaster of the Year  
13 by the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association in  
14 1977, and the organization inducted him into their hall of fame in  
15 1994; he was a member of the American Sportscasters Association  
16 Hall of Fame as well, and he was also the recipient of the lifetime  
17 achievement award from the National Academy of Television Arts and  
18 Sciences and the Pete Rozelle Radio-Television Award from the Pro  
19 Football Hall of Fame; since 2006, the NFL has presented the annual  
20 Pat Summerall Award during Super Bowl weekend to a person whose  
21 career has "demonstrated the character, integrity, and leadership  
22 both on and off the job that the name Pat Summerall represents"; and

23 WHEREAS, A longtime resident of the Dallas-Fort Worth area,  
24 Mr. Summerall was baptized at First Baptist Church in Euless and was  
25 a member of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano; in all his  
26 endeavors, he enjoyed the support of his loving wife and best  
27 friend, Cheri Summerall; he was the father of 3 children, Susan,

1 Jay, and Kyle, and saw his family grow to include 10 grandchildren;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Over the course of four decades, Pat Summerall was a  
4 beloved and respected voice for millions of sports fans, and his  
5 legacy will continue to be revered for many years to come; now,  
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
8 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Pat Summerall and  
9 extend deepest condolences to the members of his family: to his  
10 wife, Cheri Summerall; to his children, Susan Wiles and her  
11 husband, Lanny, Jay Summerall and his wife, Kathy, and Kyle  
12 Summerall and his wife, Dana; to his grandchildren, Katharine Wiles  
13 Luebker and her husband, Garrett, Caroline Wiles, and Mary Beth,  
14 Patrick, Ann, William, Charlotte, Emily, Sarah Rose, and Marian  
15 Summerall; and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it  
16 further

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