

By: Isaac

H.R. No. 2691

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, For more than 30 years, Luke "Leon" Coffee has  
2 protected cowboys and delighted crowds in his work as a rodeo clown;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, Born in Blanco in 1954, Leon Coffee began competing  
5 in rodeos when he was just nine years old; he was a rider for 14  
6 years and joined the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association in  
7 1973, but in the late 1970s he took on a new role in the sport by  
8 becoming a rodeo clown, a job in which he has mastered several  
9 different specialized and challenging tasks; and

10           WHEREAS, Wearing his trademark green hat, Mr. Coffee quickly  
11 earned a reputation as one of the sport's best bullfighters--the  
12 skilled and courageous individuals responsible for distracting  
13 bulls away from thrown riders and for rescuing cowboys who become  
14 tangled in the bull rope during their rides; he has also excelled in  
15 the role of barrel man, a figure who also works to provide  
16 protection for contestants and often has to leap quickly into a  
17 metal barrel to avoid the rampaging animals; in addition, he is a  
18 beloved entertainer who has thrilled crowds with various antics,  
19 including his trademark dance routines; and

20           WHEREAS, Now a lifetime gold card member of the PRCA, Mr.  
21 Coffee was named Clown of the Year by that organization in 1983, and  
22 he was listed as one of the top three candidates for that  
23 prestigious honor each year from 1984 to 2001; featured at premier  
24 events all across North America, he has made five appearances at the

1 National Finals Rodeo over the course of four different decades;  
2 moreover, he was inducted into the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame  
3 in 2004 and the National Cowboys of Color Hall of Fame in 2005, and  
4 he has appeared in television programs, documentaries, and  
5 commercials as well as in the movies *8 Seconds* and *My Heroes Have*  
6 *Always Been Cowboys*; and

7 WHEREAS, Through the decades, Mr. Coffee has become very  
8 familiar with the perils of his occupation; he has broken his neck,  
9 back, both wrists, and numerous other bones but continues to devote  
10 himself to his work out of his love of the sport and his desire to  
11 assist rodeo competitors; his generosity is also evident outside  
12 the arena; he regularly makes time to visit the children's wards of  
13 local hospitals during his travels, and he has participated in the  
14 Adirondack Stampede Charity Rodeo in Glens Falls, New York; and

15 WHEREAS, The job of rodeo clown requires athleticism,  
16 showmanship, and a willingness to risk harm to keep others from  
17 danger; Leon Coffee has proven himself a master of all of these  
18 talents, and he is indeed deserving of the high regard in which he  
19 is held by his peers; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
21 Legislature hereby honor Leon Coffee for his distinguished career  
22 as a rodeo clown and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued  
23 success; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
25 prepared for Mr. Coffee as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
26 House of Representatives.