

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 16

In Memory
of
Montgomery Blackwell Noelke, Jr.

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of Mertzon in mourning the loss of Montgomery Blackwell "Monte" Noelke, Jr., who died December 6, 2012, at the age of 84; and

WHEREAS, A rancher and writer known for his droll West Texas wit, Mr. Noelke was a classic cowboy poet; for more than five decades, his "Shortgrass Country" columns in the San Angelo-based *Livestock Weekly* chronicled life on his Irion County ranch and attracted a devoted flock of readers throughout the western United States; and

WHEREAS, A fourth-generation rancher, he was born on June 17, 1928, in San Angelo; he attended The University of Texas at Austin and returned to his childhood home of Mertzon, where he settled with his late wife, Margaret, and together they raised eight children; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Noelke revered nature and literature equally, and friends recall that he was as moved by the birth of a new calf as by the recital of an Irish poem; he spearheaded an expansion of the Mertzon Library, and, as president of the Mertzon School Board, he regularly invited visiting poets to expand the horizons of young writers in the area; and

WHEREAS, His own horizons were broadened by travel, which Mr. Noelke enjoyed sharing with his companion of the past 23 years, the poet cowgirl Cheryl Clayton; the couple posted letters home to Texas from places as far-flung as Africa, Indonesia, and the Galapagos Islands; and

WHEREAS, Roundly admired by his community, Mr. Noelke was a regional character, fond of wearing bow ties and delivering home-cooked gourmet meals to people in need; his friends recall that he once received a horse in lieu of payment for his writing; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Noelke was both a world traveler and a folksy iconoclast; he was a community servant, a family man, and a Texas-size character who will be profoundly missed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 83rd Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of Montgomery Blackwell Noelke, Jr.; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the members of his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Monte Noelke.

Watson

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on January 23, 2013, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate