

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 997

WHEREAS, John Wayne is the prototypical American hero, symbolizing such traits as self-reliance, grace under pressure, resolve, and patriotism; and

WHEREAS, Born Marion Robert Morrison on May 26, 1907, in Winterset, Iowa, he moved with his parents as a young boy to California; in 1916, while the family was living in Glendale, he began going by "Duke," a nickname that followed him throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, In 1925, he began attending the University of Southern California on a football scholarship, playing offensive lineman; after breaking his collarbone in a surfing accident before his junior year, he withdrew from the university and began working at Fox Film Corporation as a laborer moving set props and as an occasional extra in movies; and

WHEREAS, While working at the studio, he met Wyatt Earp, who was a consultant to Western film director John Ford, and he would adopt some of Earp's mannerisms for his roles as a cowboy; and

WHEREAS, The first film in which he was the leading actor was *The Big Trail* in 1930; it was then that the studio gave him the screen name "John Wayne," which he would use for the remainder of his acting career; and

WHEREAS, Starring in classic Western films such as *Stagecoach*, *Red River*, *The Searchers*, and *True Grit*, Wayne personified the archetypal cowboy who is rough-edged and plainspoken but also capable of great warmth, kindness, and generosity; he won an Oscar in 1970 for Best Actor for his role as Rooster Cogburn in *True Grit*; and

WHEREAS, Although best known for his Westerns, John Wayne had an impressive list of performances in other genres, such as the World War II films *Flying Tigers* and *Sands of Iwo Jima*; and

WHEREAS, Wayne was an avid supporter of the United States military and toured bases and hospitals in the South Pacific in 1943 and 1944 with the United Service Organizations; and

WHEREAS, In *The Alamo*, his first film as a director, John Wayne played the role of Davy Crockett; the film won an Oscar nomination in 1961 for Best Picture; Wayne also directed and starred in *The Green Berets*, which was released in 1968 and was set in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Over the course of his acting career, John Wayne practically invented the Western hero by combining rugged masculinity with the courage to stand up to authority when necessary, the strength to match any opponent, and the determination to prevail against great odds; John Wayne endures as a cultural icon, and his films continue to appeal to new audiences; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 84th Legislature, hereby recognize May 26, 2015 as John Wayne Day; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this special occasion and as a tribute to the life of John Wayne.

Nichols

Bettencourt	Hall	Rodríguez
Birdwell	Hancock	Schwertner
Burton	Hinojosa	Seliger
Campbell	Huffines	Taylor of Galveston
Creighton	Huffman	Taylor of Collin
Ellis	Kolkhorst	Uresti
Eltife	Lucio	Watson
Estes	Menéndez	West
Fraser	Nelson	Whitmire
Garcia	Perry	Zaffirini

Patrick, President of the Senate

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 26, 2015.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate