

By: White

H.R. No. 708

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A full and generous life drew to a close with the  
2 passing of Aubrey Elton Cole Sr. of Buna on January 28, 2017, at the  
3 age of 90; and

4           WHEREAS, The son of Providence Walter Cole and Agnes Clark  
5 Cole, Aubrey Cole was born in Hemphill on April 29, 1926; his family  
6 moved to Jasper County when he was 10 and eventually settled in the  
7 Buna area, where Mr. Cole continued to live for the rest of his  
8 life; and

9           WHEREAS, Mr. Cole spent 10 years with the Texas Forest  
10 Service early in his career before working in the shipbuilding and  
11 ironworking industries; in 1972, he won election as sheriff of  
12 Jasper County, a position he held for nearly 19 years; during his  
13 exemplary tenure, he earned the respect and admiration of his  
14 fellow citizens, and in recognition of his outstanding  
15 contributions as a peace officer, the Jasper County jail was named  
16 the Aubrey E. Cole Law Enforcement Center; and

17           WHEREAS, A member of Buna Masonic Lodge No. 1095 for 60  
18 years, Mr. Cole served the lodge as past master and as deputy  
19 district grandmaster for District 25B of the Most Worshipful Grand  
20 Lodge of Texas; he and his first wife were designated Redbud Royalty  
21 by the Buna Chamber of Commerce, and in 1997, the chamber named him  
22 Citizen of the Year; in his leisure hours, he enjoyed hunting,  
23 fishing, and farming, and he was renowned for his knowledge of local  
24 history, his gift for storytelling, and his infectious smile; and

1           WHEREAS, Mr. Cole was joined in matrimony to the former  
2 Rebecca "Jackie" Lambert in 1944, and they shared more than six  
3 decades of marriage, until her passing; his life was further  
4 enriched by his seven children, Aubrey Cole Jr., W. C. Cole, Becky  
5 Cleveland, Mary Herrington, Novie Hammock, Frances Tomlin, and  
6 Tammy Hays; after the death of his first wife, he was fortunate  
7 enough to find love again with Mary Smith, and he became a devoted  
8 stepfather to her three children, Rhonda, Joe, and Tony; as the  
9 years passed, he was blessed with 19 grandchildren, 8  
10 step-grandchildren, 40 great-grandchildren, 8  
11 step-great-grandchildren, and 8 great-great-grandchildren; and

12           WHEREAS, Deeply devoted to his family and his community,  
13 Aubrey Cole leaves behind a record of service that his loved ones  
14 can remember with pride; now, therefore, be it

15           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
16 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Aubrey Elton Cole Sr.  
17 and extend heartfelt sympathy to his family and many friends; and,  
18 be it further

19           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
20 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
21 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Aubrey  
22 Elton Cole Sr.