

By: Springer

H.R. No. 761

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The 93rd birthday of an esteemed Texan is truly  
2 cause for celebration, and Mary Ellen "Dude" Barton reached that  
3 impressive milestone on January 14, 2017; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in 1924, Mary Ellen Barton is the youngest  
5 child of Wilburn Burr and Ella Orr Barton, and she grew up with  
6 eight brothers and sisters on the family farm along the North Pease  
7 River, in the Caprock foothills of West Texas; as a young girl, she  
8 referred to the family dog as "Doot," and from that  
9 mispronunciation her siblings derived young Mary Ellen's lifelong  
10 nickname, "Dude"; and

11 WHEREAS, A natural on horseback, Ms. Barton used to beg her  
12 father to take her with him into the fields or on cattle drives, and  
13 he obliged, tying her to the saddle so she wouldn't fall off; soon  
14 she was riding on her own, working on the ranch and accompanying her  
15 siblings to the rodeo; and

16 WHEREAS, Ms. Barton participated in rodeos at the Will Rogers  
17 Coliseum as a teenager, and her experience and natural athleticism  
18 gave her an edge over the other contestants; she was a fierce  
19 competitor in barrel racing and in an event roughly equivalent to  
20 musical chairs on horseback, which she won at least nine times; and

21 WHEREAS, Later in life, Ms. Barton helped organize the All  
22 Girls Rodeo Association; in 1984, she was inducted into the Cowgirl  
23 Hall of Fame in Hereford, and a large photo of her is featured at the  
24 Cowgirl Hall of Fame in Fort Worth; and

1           WHEREAS, Over the course of more than nine decades, Dude  
2 Barton has met life's challenges with grace and good humor, and she  
3 has earned the admiration and deep affection of all who are  
4 privileged to know her; now, therefore, be it

5           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
6 Legislature hereby congratulate Mary Ellen "Dude" Barton on her  
7 93rd birthday and extend to her sincere best wishes for continued  
8 happiness; and, be it further

9           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
10 prepared for Ms. Barton as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
11 House of Representatives.