H.R. No. 1271

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, A rich and purposeful life has drawn to a close with the death of rodeo rider and producer Joe Davis of Fulshear on March 25, 2019, at the age of 85; and

WHEREAS, "Smokey" Davis was born in Crosby on August 25, 1933, to Joe and Alice Davis; he started breakaway roping at the age of 9, winning his first adult event at 11, and he exhibited cattle at major livestock shows in Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio while he was in high school; he went on to attend the University of Houston, where he was president of the rodeo team and competed in five events, calf roping, steer roping, steer wrestling, bareback riding, and bull riding; and

WHEREAS, Working as a machinist from 1955 until his retirement in 1972, Mr. Davis also operated a ranch and continued to compete in the rodeo on the weekends; he and a partner started Round-Up Rodeo Productions in 1972, and in 1978, he founded the Rafter D Rodeo Company, which staged 50 rodeos a year throughout Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana, including shows for such dignitaries as Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands; over the years, he supplied livestock and locations for many motion picture and television productions, including the television miniseries *Lonesome Dove* and the series *The Son*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis served on the board of the International Professional Rodeo Association as the stock contractor for the Southern Region for 22 years, and he was a lifetime committee member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo; he was also a member of the Southern Rodeo Association and the Texas Rodeo Association, each of which named him producer of the year on many occasions; his other honors include induction into the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame and the South Central Texas Rodeo Ring of Honor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis shared 62 years with his wife, Betty, until her death in 2016; he was the proud father of 5 children, Steve, Donnie, Ronnie, Kathy, and Karen, and later in life he was blessed with 10 grandchildren, Jason, Jake, Lesliann, Brettney, Hunter, Alicia, Ian, Caley, John, and the late John Edward Nemeth, as well as 20 great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, A devoted family man and a true Texas cowboy, Smokey Davis lived a life that was rich in professional and personal accomplishments, and he will forever be a source of inspiration to those he leaves behind; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Joe "Smokey" Davis and extend heartfelt sympathy to his relatives and many friends; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Smokey Davis.

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1271 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on April 26, 2019.

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Chief Clerk of the House