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By:  Springer H.R. No. 1582

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The Santa Rosa Palomino Club, one of the premier western riding clubs in Texas and the Southwest, is celebrating the 70th anniversary of its founding in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Based in Vernon in Wilbarger County, the Santa Rosa Palomino Club was organized by 16 men in 1949; mounted on beautiful palomino horses and donning colorful traditional attire, the club's riders perform a precision drill at rodeos and other events throughout the Southwest; around 200 men have been recruited into the Palomino Club since its inception, with some being second and third generation members from the same families; and

WHEREAS, To date, the Palomino Club has prevailed in two National Drill Team Championships, brought home more than 400 first-place parade trophies, and appeared at rodeos, wild west shows, charity performances, and other venues in a dozen states; the club has also been featured in books and articles, as well as on several television programs; for many years, it has hosted the Santa Rosa Roundup, a tradition begun by E. Paul Waggoner, and it was instrumental in raising funds to purchase the historic rodeo grounds in Vernon so that the rodeo will continue under local sponsorship; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Palomino Club have had the distinction of showcasing their talents at the inauguration parades for Governors Ann Richards and George W. Bush, as well as at an International Lions Club Parade; in 2012, the club represented Vernon and Texas in the Tournament of Roses Parade as a guest of RFD-TV, and later that same year, it was inducted into the Texas Rodeo Hall of Fame in the Fort Worth Stockyards; and

WHEREAS, In recent decades, the club has earned a reputation for its performances at the Texas Ranch Roundup, the Cattle Baron's Ball, and the Bustin' Diabetes Rodeo; its notable charitable activities include providing a horse for the Make-A-Wish-Foundation and offering horseback rides at hospitals, living centers, schools, and other events for children who might otherwise never have the opportunity to ride; in recognition of its rich history and admirable record of service, the Texas Legislature named the group the official Ambassadors on Horseback for the State of Texas, a title that it continues to hold today; and

WHEREAS, For seven decades, the riders of the Santa Rosa Palomino Club have distinguished themselves through their skilled horsemanship and their generous support of many worthy causes, and the State of Texas is proud to be the home of this storied organization; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Santa Rosa Palomino Club and extend to its members sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for the club as an expression of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.