

By: Kacal

H.R. No. 1271

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A rich and purposeful life has drawn to a close with  
2 the death of rodeo rider and producer Joe Davis of Fulshear on March  
3 25, 2019, at the age of 85; and

4 WHEREAS, "Smokey" Davis was born in Crosby on August 25,  
5 1933, to Joe and Alice Davis; he started breakaway roping at the age  
6 of 9, winning his first adult event at 11, and he exhibited cattle  
7 at major livestock shows in Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio while  
8 he was in high school; he went on to attend the University of  
9 Houston, where he was president of the rodeo team and competed in  
10 five events, calf roping, steer roping, steer wrestling, bareback  
11 riding, and bull riding; and

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

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Davis served on the board of the International  
24 Professional Rodeo Association as the stock contractor for the

1 Southern Region for 22 years, and he was a lifetime committee member  
2 of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo; he was also a member of the  
3 Southern Rodeo Association and the Texas Rodeo Association, each of  
4 which named him producer of the year on many occasions; his other  
5 honors include induction into the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame  
6 and the South Central Texas Rodeo Ring of Honor; and

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

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

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

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