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By:  Darby H.R. No. 146

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Residents of San Angelo lost a beloved community leader with the passing of Byron E. Cleere on October 4, 2021, at the age of 89; and

WHEREAS, Born in Alice on July 4, 1932, "Sonny" Cleere was the youngest of four children born to Buford and Myrtle Cleere; a standout in football and track at Alice High School, he earned a scholarship to Abilene Christian University; as a Wildcat, he was captain of the football team and anchored the offensive line as a guard on a number of talented squads; among his many accolades, he earned All-Conference and All-American honors; and

WHEREAS, In 1954, Mr. Cleere was drafted by the Chicago Bears, but his career came to an end when he sustained injuries during a hunting accident; he then coached and taught social studies for a decade at Ozona High School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cleere subsequently moved to San Angelo, where he enjoyed a successful career as owner of the Meadows, Fisher & Cleere Insurance company; highly respected in the community, he was a founding member of the Back the Badge organization and was instrumental in launching the July 4th Pops Concert and Fireworks show and the annual San Angelo Support for Veterans Hunt; known for his rich baritone, he served as the "voice of San Angelo" for 38 years as announcer at San Angelo Central High School football games; in 2003, he was named the San Angelo Citizen of the Year by the San Angelo Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Cleere benefited from the love and support of his wife, the former Claudia Ketner, and he took great pride in his four children, Kirk, Ned, Penny, and Courtney Paige; with the passing years, his family grew to include eight grandchildren, Jabyn, Jewel, Camille, Claire, Caroline, Sophia, Victoria, and the late Byron Dixon Cleere; a man of deep faith, he rose early each morning for Bible study, and he inspired others with his integrity and generosity; and

WHEREAS, Sonny Cleere was a force for good in his community and a dear friend to many, and he will forever be remembered with deep admiration by all those who were fortunate enough to know him; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory of Byron E. Cleere and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his wife, Claudia Cleere; to his children, Kirk Cleere and his wife, Patsy, Ned Munoz and his wife, Tammy, Penny Cleere, and Courtney Paige Fajkus and her husband, Gregg; to his grandchildren, Jabyn and Jewel Cleere, Camille, Claire, and Caroline Fajkus, and Sophia and Victoria Munoz; to his sister, Willodean Ellis; and to his other relatives and 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 Sonny Cleere.