

By: Darby

H.R. No. 146

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
24 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
25 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Sonny  
26 Cleere.