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By:  Leach H.R. No. 552

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Members of the Rejebian Book Club of Plano are celebrating the 75th anniversary of their group in 2021; and

WHEREAS, In 1936, Dallas resident Ermance Rejebian attended a presentation on the historical novel *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh*; as an Armenian-American immigrant, she took great exception to the speaker's lack of knowledge about the events in the book; she went on to deliver her own enthralling review of the book for the Dallas Story League, and she was soon much in demand at literary events and women's club meetings; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Rejebian was encouraged to start her own book club, and thanks to her erudition and stirring oratory, performances drew large audiences, requiring a waiting list and leading to the establishment of other Rejebian Book Clubs; the Plano group was founded in 1946 by several local women who had been driving all the way to Dallas to enjoy Mrs. Rejebian's reviews; and

WHEREAS, Eventually, some 40 Rejebian Book Clubs flourished in Oklahoma and Louisiana, as well as Texas; for well over three decades, Mrs. Rejebian gave more than 40 hour-long reviews in a typical month, from memory; in addition, her reviews were featured on radio station WFAA, and for seven years, she served as a weekly news commentator; she also published two autobiographical books, a volume of letters, and Bible studies; in 1951, *Time* magazine named her one of the seven most influential women in the Southwest; she was the inaugural recipient of the Americanism Medal, conferred by the Jane Douglas Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to honor her many contributions as a naturalized citizen; and

WHEREAS, Ermance Rejebian died in 1989, but her legacy lives on through a number of her namesake clubs, and the continued existence of the Plano group is a tribute to the enduring dedication of the club's members, both past and present; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Rejebian Book Club of Plano and extend to the members sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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