

By: Leach

H.R. No. 552

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, Eventually, some 40 Rejebian Book Clubs flourished
17 in Oklahoma and Louisiana, as well as Texas; for well over three
18 decades, Mrs. Rejebian gave more than 40 hour-long reviews in a
19 typical month, from memory; in addition, her reviews were featured
20 on radio station WFAA, and for seven years, she served as a weekly
21 news commentator; she also published two autobiographical books, a
22 volume of letters, and Bible studies; in 1951, *Time* magazine named
23 her one of the seven most influential women in the Southwest; she
24 was the inaugural recipient of the Americanism Medal, conferred by

1 the Jane Douglas Chapter of the Daughters of the American
2 Revolution to honor her many contributions as a naturalized
3 citizen; and

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

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

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