

H. Res. 439

In the House of Representatives, U.S.,

March 2, 2004.

Whereas Willie Shoemaker was born Billie Lee Shoemaker on August 19, 1931, in Fabens, Texas;

Whereas Willie Shoemaker, nicknamed the “Shoe”, is arguably the most successful jockey in the history of horse racing;

Whereas Willie Shoemaker won his first race at the age of 18 and had compiled 8,833 victories by the time he retired in 1990;

Whereas in 1970, Willie Shoemaker became the all-time leader in career wins by surpassing John Longden’s total of 6,033 wins;

Whereas on March 3, 1985, while riding Lord at War at the Santa Anita Handicap, Willie Shoemaker became the first jockey to total \$100,000,000 in purse winnings;

Whereas Willie Shoemaker held the record for career wins for 29 years;

Whereas Willie Shoemaker won four Kentucky Derbies, five Belmont Stakes, and three Preakness Stakes;

Whereas Willie Shoemaker was the oldest jockey to ride a winner in the Kentucky Derby and the Breeder’s Cup;

Whereas at Santa Anita in 1990, Willie Shoemaker ran the final race of his storied 41-year career;

Whereas Willie Shoemaker is a member of thoroughbred racing's Hall of Fame and the Texas Horse Racing Hall of Fame;

Whereas on April 8, 1991, just over a year after his retirement, Willie Shoemaker was involved in a car accident that left him paralyzed from the neck down;

Whereas Willie Shoemaker was an honorary Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Paralysis Project of America, whose mission is to accelerate progress toward finding a cure for paralysis caused by spinal cord injury; and

Whereas on October 13, 2003, America was saddened by the death of Willie Shoemaker at the age of 72: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) honors the life and legendary career in horse racing of Willie Shoemaker; and

(2) expresses condolences on the passing of Willie Shoemaker to his family and friends.

Attest:

Clerk.