

IN THE LEGISLATURE
of the

STATE OF WASHINGTON



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EX 1170
HOUSE FLOOR RESOLUTION NO. 86-127, by Representatives
Tilly and Ballard

WHEREAS, It is the policy of the Legislature to recognize excellence in all fields of endeavor; and

WHEREAS, Harold Otto has exhibited the highest level of excellence as a cowboy poet; and

WHEREAS, Harold Otto is a native of Washington State and was raised in Pateros, Washington located in beautiful Methow Valley; and

WHEREAS, Harold Otto has been writing local verse for most of his eighty-four years and has produced a voluminous output of poetry; and

WHEREAS, Harold Otto's poems feature an array of occupations and specifically chronicle small-town life, cowboys and the Methow Valley; and

WHEREAS, Harold Otto writes a graduation poem for the senior class at Pateros High School each year and is frequently called upon to deliver tributes at memorial services; and

WHEREAS, Harold Otto has had a wonderful book of poems published entitled, Poems -- Fact and Fiction, has had one of his poems, "The Pecos Girl," put to music and has had newspapers from as far away as San Francisco publish articles about his verse; and

WHEREAS, Harold Otto has received a certificate of recognition from Poetry Americana for a poem entitled, "To the Columbia," and has been honored by the Institute for the American West as one of America's premier cowboy poets; and

WHEREAS, Harold Otto has been featured at the Seattle Folklife Festival, has been featured in an article in the magazine, "Washington Almanac--1986" and has recently been featured on the television news journal program, "American Almanac"; and

WHEREAS, Harold Otto has deservedly been called "The Poet of Pateros" and the "Bard of the Methow" for such poetic verse as:

"For many years, I herded cows

Upon the dusty trail.
I've thrown my rope around their horns,
And twisted on their tails...
...To a bunch of cows that seemed to know
Just how to make me mad.
And anything that bothered me
Just seemed to make them glad."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives of the State of Washington, That Harold Otto be honored as a native son for his contribution to poetry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Harold Otto be, and hereby is, designated as the "Cowboy Poet of the State of Washington"; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives send a copy of this Resolution to Harold Otto, to the Mayor of Pateros and to Governor Booth Gardner.

ADOPTED February 24, 1986.

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of Resolution adopted by the House of Representatives February 24, 1986.

Dennis L. Heck
Dennis L. Heck, Chief Clerk,
House of Representatives