

By: Baxter

H.R. No. 103

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The people of Austin and Central Texas have lost a  
2 civic leader of rare ability and dedication with the passing of  
3 Dr. W. Neal Kocurek on March 29, 2004, at the age of 67; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in Austin in 1936, Dr. Kocurek graduated from  
5 Austin High School as salutatorian of his class and went on to earn  
6 B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering from The  
7 University of Texas at Austin; he enjoyed a successful career as an  
8 entrepreneur and corporate executive, cofounding two companies,  
9 Unitech, Inc., and Radian International LLC, and helping to guide  
10 Radian for nearly three decades; since 1998 he had served as  
11 president and CEO of St. David's HealthCare System; and

12           WHEREAS, Although he never held public office, Dr. Kocurek  
13 left an imprint on Austin and the surrounding region that has seldom  
14 been equaled; enjoying the esteem and trust of leaders throughout  
15 the community, he repeatedly brought people together to achieve  
16 progress in areas such as health care, public education, higher  
17 education, transportation, water, social equity, and regional  
18 stewardship; and

19           WHEREAS, While serving at the helm of St. David's,  
20 Dr. Kocurek oversaw the transition of that medical center into the  
21 St. David's HealthCare Partnership, and he played a pivotal role in  
22 integrating St. David's charitable mission into the principles  
23 guiding its new partner institutions; he was also instrumental in  
24 creating a structure to coordinate health care for the poor among

1 regional providers and in establishing projects to provide free  
2 dental care for children and to address the root causes of health  
3 problems in the city of Austin; and

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Kocurek's extraordinary skill at building  
5 consensus was especially evident in the negotiations that led to  
6 the creation of State Highway 130 and to other transportation  
7 advances, as well as in the steps that led to the construction of  
8 the Austin Convention Center; and

9 WHEREAS, A stalwart friend of public education in the Capital  
10 City, he helped to plan and pass several school bond issues and  
11 worked with individual schools to promote staff development; his  
12 counsel was sought by district superintendents and educators, as  
13 well as by leaders of The University of Texas and Austin Community  
14 College; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Kocurek served for more than 30 years on  
16 Austin's Electric Utility Commission, played a critical part in  
17 securing the present quarters of the Austin History Center, and  
18 helped to establish the West Austin Youth Association (WAYA) and  
19 Envision Central Texas; he was also involved with the People's  
20 Community Clinic, Austin Technology Incubator, Austin Area Urban  
21 League, Texas Institute for Health Policy Research, and Austin Area  
22 Research Organization, for which he served two years as president;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Among the many accolades he received over the years  
25 were the Distinguished Service Medal, conferred by the mayor of  
26 Austin, the Leadership in Regionalism Award, granted by the Capital  
27 Area Planning Council, and the first honorary degree bestowed by

1 Leadership Austin; Dr. Kocurek was further selected as the 360  
2 Summit Civic Entrepreneur of the Year, as Austinite of the Year in  
3 1989, and as Austin's Most Worthy Citizen in 2002; and

4 WHEREAS, This distinguished Texan was the devoted husband of  
5 Mary Kocurek and the proud father of three children, Jeffrey and  
6 Kelly Kocurek and Suzanne Rose; when his children were younger, he  
7 spent many years coaching their WAYA sports teams; a passionate  
8 reader, he also found relaxation in hunting, especially when he was  
9 able to join his sons on trips to South Texas; and

10 WHEREAS, Though his journey on this earth has ended far too  
11 soon, Neal Kocurek leaves an extraordinary legacy in the leaders he  
12 has mentored and in the programs, projects, and institutions he has  
13 helped bring to fruition; his life was rich in family, friends, and  
14 accomplishments, and his memory will be forever cherished by a host  
15 of loved ones and fellow citizens; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
17 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby pay special tribute to the  
18 life of Dr. W. Neal Kocurek and extend deepest sympathy to the  
19 members of his family: to his wife, Mary Kocurek; to his children  
20 and their spouses, Jeffrey Kocurek and his wife, Dana, Kelly  
21 Kocurek and his wife, Julie, and Suzanne Rose and her husband,  
22 Brian; to his grandchildren, Zachary, Rebecca, Will, Mary Frances,  
23 Cole, and Clayton; to his parents, Maurine and Willie L. Kocurek; to  
24 his sister, Kay Kocurek Bell; and to all who mourn the passing of  
25 this beloved gentleman; and, be it further

26 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
27 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of

H.R. No. 103

1 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dr. W. Neal  
2 Kocurek.