

By: Dukes

H.R. No. 1270

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The passing of noted scholar, teacher,
2 entrepreneur, and philanthropist Dr. George Kozmetsky on April 30,
3 2003, at the age of 85, has left a void in the lives of the countless
4 individuals who were privileged to know this exceptional man; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Seattle, Washington, on October 5, 1917, Dr.
6 Kozmetsky was the son of Russian immigrants who came to the United
7 States in search of freedom, prosperity, and a better way of life;
8 he earned his undergraduate degree from the University of
9 Washington and, after dutifully serving in the Army Medical Corps
10 during World War II, he continued his studies at Harvard
11 University, earning his master's of business administration and
12 doctoral degrees; and

13 WHEREAS, A man of boundless energy and enthusiasm, Dr.
14 Kozmetsky was a passionate and dedicated educator who began his
15 teaching career in his home state and later held teaching positions
16 at the University of Chicago and Carnegie Mellon University; the
17 classroom, however, could not contain his curious nature, and he
18 was compelled to venture into the business and industrial arenas in
19 the 1950s, first with Hughes Aircraft Company and then with Litton
20 Industries; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1960 he cofounded Teledyne, Inc., and began a
22 six-year tenure as executive vice president and driving force of
23 that extremely successful business venture; with the achievement of
24 many of his goals in the private sector, he sought a return to

1 academia and in 1966 was named dean of the College and Graduate
2 School of Business at The University of Texas at Austin, a post he
3 held and excelled in for 16 years, developing an innovative and
4 demanding curriculum that redefined the modern business school; and

5 WHEREAS, A desire to promote the growth of technology in the
6 private sector led him to found IC² Institute in 1982, an endeavor
7 that helped usher Austin into the world of high technology and
8 helped Dr. Kozmetsky become affectionately known as the grandfather
9 of Austin's high tech industry; he also played a role in the
10 establishment of the venerable Austin Technology Incubator and
11 Texas Capital Networks; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Kozmetsky was a dedicated philanthropist who
13 created the RGK Foundation with his wife, Ronya, in 1966; through
14 the years, the foundation distributed tens of millions of dollars
15 to hundreds of nonprofit organizations; the foundation's
16 philanthropic endeavors ranged from offering grants for students to
17 rehabilitating areas ravaged by natural disasters; and

18 WHEREAS, The remarkable achievements of Dr. Kozmetsky have
19 had a profound effect on citizens of this community and, indeed,
20 citizens throughout the world, and although his loss has been
21 devastating to those who knew and loved him, his legacy of
22 generosity and success will ensure that his memory is not soon
23 forgotten; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
25 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. George Kozmetsky
26 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his
27 wife, Ronya Kozmetsky; to his daughter, Nadya Scott; to his son and

1 daughter-in-law, Gregory and Cindy Kozmetsky; to his
2 grandchildren, Aaron Kozmetsky and his wife, Tracey; Bethany Scott
3 Herwegh and her husband, Christopher; Daniel Kozmetsky; M. Jordan
4 Scott; George Taylor Scott; Sarah Kozmetsky; and Caitlin Scott; to
5 his great-grandchildren, Jack, Will, Claire, and Mason; and to the
6 many other relatives, friends, and colleagues of this esteemed
7 gentleman; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
10 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dr. George
11 Kozmetsky.