

By: Swinford

H.R. No. 357

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Earl James Halfmann of the Vancourt community is
2 marking a notable milestone on August 18, 2005, with the
3 celebration of his 80th birthday; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in 1925 and raised on his family's farm in West
5 Texas, Mr. Halfmann graduated from Price College in Amarillo, where
6 he played on the school basketball team; he subsequently enlisted
7 in the U.S. Army and served in the Pacific Theater during World War
8 II and in Okinawa with the Army of Occupation; and

9 WHEREAS, Following his discharge from the service, Mr.
10 Halfmann returned home in 1948 to begin farming in the Vancourt
11 community; he married Mary Ann Glass in Rowena on January 4, 1949,
12 and the couple became the parents of six children, Wanda, Ruth,
13 Debbie, Charles, Kevin, and Joan; and

14 WHEREAS, During one challenging 19-year stretch, Mr.
15 Halfmann and his wife had anywhere from one to four teenagers living
16 under their roof, but they met the trials and tribulations of that
17 time with more than a little grace, forbearance, and love; for Mr.
18 Halfmann, who coped resolutely with broken tractors, pig scours,
19 Johnson grass, boll weevils, drought, inflation, and hailstorms, it
20 may even have been a welcome change of pace to monitor such domestic
21 matters as his sons and their fast cars, his daughters' penchant for
22 hoeing cotton in their swimsuits, and the roller-coaster sagas of
23 young romance; and

24 WHEREAS, However vexing, comic, or tumultuous, none of those

1 distractions prevented Mr. Halfmann from staying abreast of the
2 latest innovations in cotton farming; he was the first to do
3 parallel terracing and one of the first to have a basket cotton
4 stripper; his sense of humor remained intact as well, as evidenced
5 by a sign in his house boasting that strippin' is what cotton
6 farmers keep on doing; and

7 WHEREAS, A fourth-degree Grand Knight in Council 4316 of the
8 Knights of Columbus, Mr. Halfmann took over some of the remodeling
9 responsibilities at his church when the parish priest relocated;
10 since stepping into the breach, he has been known fondly throughout
11 the community as Father Earl; and

12 WHEREAS, For relaxation, this esteemed Texan loves dancing to
13 polka and country music, so much so that he belongs to two different
14 dance clubs; he is also a ringleader in his 42 club, where, he
15 assures his grandchildren, he never loses, and he enjoys hunting
16 and fishing with family and friends; in family competition, he has
17 won, and defends to this day, the proud title of Washer Pitcher
18 Champion; and

19 WHEREAS, The long arc of Mr. Halfmann's career has taken him
20 from farming with horses to farming with computerized machinery;
21 through it all, he has hewed to the motto, "If I'm awake, I should be
22 working," and so it is understandable that after eight decades he
23 has only been able to get so far as semiretirement; nevertheless, he
24 has nudged just far enough into the realm of leisure that he has
25 been able to pick up one new hobby--reading--and the San Angelo
26 Public Library is herewith put on notice; and

27 WHEREAS, Not least, Mr. Halfmann takes infinite delight in

1 being a grandfather to Heather, Shanna, Allison, Amber, Ty, Kayla,
2 Jessica, Jake, Julianne, James, Thomas, and Elizabeth, and a
3 great-grandfather to Jordan, Brandon, and Ashlynn; and

4 WHEREAS, Endowed with a heart truly as large as Texas, this
5 beloved gentleman continues to enrich the lives of his family and
6 friends and to brighten immeasurably the world around him; now,
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
9 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby warmly congratulate Earl
10 James Halfmann on the joyous occasion of his 80th birthday and
11 extend to him sincere best wishes for continued happiness; and, be
12 it further

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