

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 29

WHEREAS, Blake Starkey of Palestine is retiring from his position as president and chief executive officer of Cartmell Home for Aged in June 2005, bringing to a close an exemplary 25-year tenure with the institution; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Starkey began his career with Cartmell Home for Aged in 1980, and his characteristic diligence and professionalism have greatly benefited residents and staff alike; under his leadership, Cartmell Home for Aged has expanded from a 60-bed facility with 40 employees to a 162-bed, 180-employee facility, which is widely regarded as one of the finest nursing homes in the Lone Star State; the home continues to provide outstanding long-term care to its residents and offers assistance to many other elder-care organizations throughout the state that have adopted its innovative programs; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Sam Houston State University, Mr. Starkey earned a master's degree at the University of Oklahoma and completed the nursing home administrator's course at Tyler Junior College, where he graduated first in his class; he also had a 25-year career with the United States Army, serving in Vietnam, Germany, and the Panama Canal Zone and earning three Bronze Star Medals and three Army Commendation Medals; in 1987, he retired as a lieutenant colonel with the United States Army Transportation Corps; and

WHEREAS, Although the demands on his time have been many, Mr. Starkey has managed to give back to his professional and civic communities through his involvement in a host of notable organizations; a former director of the Palestine Chamber of Commerce and of the Palestine Young Men's Christian Association, he has served as an instructor of midmanagement at Trinity Valley Community College and as president of the Palestine Community Concert Association; he has distinguished himself as a member of the Anderson County Community Fund Foundation Scholarship Committee and of The University of Texas at Tyler Palestine Campus Development Council; he has also been very active with the Palestine Rotary Club and with the Texas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging, which honored him in May 2005, with a Meritorious Service Award for his many contributions to the organization, including his service on the board of directors, the Legislative Task Force, and the Public Policy Committee; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Mr. Starkey has enjoyed the love and support of his wife, Peggy, their children, Blake and Eleanor, and their five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Blake Starkey has set a sterling example of leadership to which all may aspire, and as he prepares to embark on the next chapter of his life, it is a pleasure to commend him for his years of dedication to our state's senior citizens; now, therefore, be it

S.R. No. 29

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby congratulate Blake Starkey on his retirement as president and chief executive officer of Cartmell Home for Aged and extend to him heartfelt best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Staples

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on June 29, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate