

By: Martinez

H.R. No. 233

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Sam Sparks of Santa Rosa, one of the most esteemed
2 civic and business leaders in the Rio Grande Valley, has been chosen
3 as the 2005 Distinguished Citizen by the Rio Grande Council, Boy
4 Scouts of America; and

5 WHEREAS, Born on December 24, 1928, in Haleyville, Alabama,
6 Mr. Sparks moved to Santa Rosa with his family when he was two; he
7 began farming in 1945, and in 1947, with the insurance money he
8 received for a broken leg, he purchased his first tractor; and

9 WHEREAS, Over the next several decades, Mr. Sparks built a
10 successful career working the land and earned the high regard of his
11 neighbors for his constructive involvement in a host of
12 agricultural and civic organizations; he was listed in the 1965
13 edition of *Outstanding Young Men of America* and was runner-up for
14 the Outstanding Young Farmer of Texas award; today he serves as
15 president of the B&P Bridge Company, which operates the
16 International Bridge at Progreso; and

17 WHEREAS, Sam Sparks has long given unstintingly of his time
18 and talents to the people of his region and the State of Texas; he is
19 currently an advisory trustee of the Valley Baptist Medical Center
20 and a member of the boards of trustees of Abilene Christian
21 University, the Golden Palms Retirement and Health Center, and
22 Sunny Glen Children's Home; and

23 WHEREAS, This notable Texan has also served as director of
24 the Valley Farm Bureau, member of the Valley Acres Irrigation

1 District Board of Directors, board member of the Rio Grande Valley
2 Sugar Growers, leader of the Texas Vegetable Seed Improvement
3 Association, and chairman of Rio Farms, Inc., an agricultural
4 research facility; moreover, he has chaired the advisory committee
5 to the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension
6 facility in Weslaco; and

7 WHEREAS, Possessing a keen interest in education, Mr. Sparks
8 has served on the boards of both the Santa Rosa and South Texas
9 Independent School Districts and chaired the Target 2002 project of
10 The Texas A&M University System; and

11 WHEREAS, In addition, he has served as a director of the San
12 Antonio branch board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas,
13 director of the First National Bank of Harlingen, chairman of the
14 Harlingen Area Chamber of Commerce, and board member for the
15 Salvation Army; a staunch supporter of the Boy Scouts for many
16 years, he is a past president of the Santa Rosa Kiwanis Club, a
17 Mason, and a valued member of the Church of Christ; and

18 WHEREAS, Sam Sparks married Seanne Busch in 1948 and the
19 couple have enjoyed a fulfilling marriage for more than five
20 decades; they take pride in a close-knit family that includes four
21 children, John Sparks, Bobby Sparks and his wife, Judy, Elizabeth
22 Johnson and her husband, Alan, and Karen Guenther and her husband,
23 Mark, as well as nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Deeply devoted to the welfare of his fellow
26 citizens, Sam Sparks exemplifies the qualities of citizenship that
27 create strong, vibrant, and caring communities, and it is indeed a

1 pleasure to recognize him at this time; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
3 Legislature, 2nd Called Session, hereby congratulate Sam Sparks on
4 the occasion of his selection as the 2005 Distinguished Citizen by
5 the Rio Grande Council, Boy Scouts of America, and extend to him
6 profound appreciation for his immeasurable contributions to the
7 Lone Star State; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
9 prepared for Mr. Sparks as an expression of high regard by the Texas
10 House of Representatives.