

By: Gattis

H.R. No. 240

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The citizens of Rockdale lost a valued friend and
2 much-admired community leader with the untimely passing of W. T.
3 "Bill" Eckert, Jr., on December 5, 2005; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of the Lone Star State, Mr. Eckert spent his
5 formative years in McCamey and attended The University of Texas at
6 Austin, where he earned a bachelor's degree in engineering; as a
7 young man, he gained employment with Alcoa's Rockdale operations,
8 serving the company in many capacities during the course of his
9 distinguished 35-year tenure; in his most recent position as
10 primary metals strategic project manager, he was instrumental in
11 brokering an agreement with TXU Energy that would bring a new power
12 plant to the area; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Eckert was dedicated to the betterment of his
14 adopted hometown; appointed to the Richards Memorial Healthcare
15 Systems board in October 2000, at a time when the hospital had
16 recently filed for bankruptcy, he was named chairman three years
17 later, and his determined and effective leadership was integral in
18 reestablishing the economic vitality of RMHS; thanks in part to his
19 efforts, the group was able to expand, buying out the former
20 Rockdale Medical Association Clinic, opening a 24-hour treatment
21 center, and starting an assisted living program; and

22 WHEREAS, In addition to his work with RMHS, this esteemed
23 Texan was a member of the Longhorn Foundation, and he brought his
24 wealth of knowledge and experience to the Texas State Technical

1 College board of directors; and

2 WHEREAS, Above all else, Mr. Eckert was devoted to his
3 family, including his wife, Karen, and his children, Travis and
4 Jennifer; and

5 WHEREAS, Throughout his lifetime, Bill Eckert exemplified
6 the highest standards of integrity, hard work, and dedication to
7 his community, and though he will be deeply missed, his legacy of
8 good works will live on; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
10 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
11 W. T. "Bill" Eckert, Jr., and extend deepest sympathy to the members
12 of his family: to his wife, Karen Eckert; to his son, Travis Eckert;
13 to his daughter, Jennifer Shinnars; to his mother and
14 father-in-law, Louis and Lucille Rubino; and to his other relatives
15 and many friends; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
18 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Bill
19 Eckert.