

By: Cook of Colorado

H.R. No. 87

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, William H. Harrison, Jr., of Eagle Lake has provided
2 leadership and vision for the community of Eagle Lake and the
3 banking industry in Texas for more than 30 years; and

4 WHEREAS, A tireless volunteer for CEN-TEX Certified
5 Development Corporation (CEN-TEX CDC), a nonprofit organization
6 founded by the U.S. Small Business Administration in 1990, he
7 served on the company's board of directors from 1990 until 1997,
8 acting as president for the majority of his tenure; since 1997, he
9 served as the corporation's Loan Committee Chairman, a position
10 from which he is retiring in 2005; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrison has helped CEN-TEX CDC develop quality
12 partnerships, including the corporation's essential affiliation
13 with the U.S. Small Business Administration, which has resulted in
14 job development and the processing of SBA 504 loans in community
15 banks; this able gentleman also worked with the Neighborhood
16 Reinvestment Corporation (NRC) to develop housing in rural areas,
17 eventually assisting more than 100 families in their dream of home
18 ownership; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1999, Mr. Harrison led the charge to assist
20 CEN-TEX in becoming financially independent; under his leadership
21 and with the support of the NRC, the corporation hired a staff,
22 expanded its service, and purchased offices on Congress Avenue in
23 Austin; Mr. Harrison also received more than \$3 million in lending
24 capital from the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Treasury,

1 the NRC, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Chase Bank; his
2 commitment to this organization has led to the dispersal of nearly
3 \$200 million in loans and the creation of 2,500 jobs; and

4 WHEREAS, Bill Harrison's colleagues at CEN-TEX CDC are
5 honoring this esteemed volunteer at a luncheon at the Farris Hotel
6 in Eagle Lake on January 28, 2005; it is a fitting tribute to a
7 determined man who has contributed greatly to the economic
8 well-being of the state; now, therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
10 Legislature hereby congratulate William H. Harrison, Jr., on his
11 retirement from CEN-TEX and extend to him sincere best wishes for
12 continued success; and, be it further

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