

By: King of Parker

H.R. No. 287

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Roy J. Eaton, the president and publisher of the
2 *Wise County Messenger* in Decatur, was inducted into the Texas
3 Newspaper Foundation Hall of Fame at the Texas Press Association's
4 60th annual midwinter conference in Houston on January 19, 2007;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, A native of Decatur, this acclaimed Texas newsman
7 was still a student at Texas Christian University when he began his
8 long career in journalism as a part-time reporter for radio station
9 KXOL in Fort Worth in 1956; in 1958 he became KXOL's news director,
10 a year before his graduation from TCU; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Eaton was named news director of radio station
12 WBAP in 1968; from there he became news director of the NBC
13 television affiliate in Dallas-Fort Worth, eventually serving as
14 the station's anchorman; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1973 he returned to Decatur and purchased the
16 *Wise County Messenger*, a weekly newspaper first published in the
17 county in 1880; in 1980 Mr. Eaton began publishing the paper twice
18 weekly, and in the 34 years he and his wife Jeannine have owned the
19 *Messenger*, they have tripled the size of the paper and increased its
20 circulation nearly three-fold; the *Wise County Messenger* has won
21 over 150 design, editorial, and advertising awards over the years;
22 in 2005 it won the National Newspaper Association's General
23 Excellence Award for twice-weekly newspapers; and

24 WHEREAS, A longtime leader in his profession, Mr. Eaton has

1 served on the board and various committees of the National
2 Newspaper Association, and as its president from 1996 to 1997; a
3 former president of the Texas Press Association, the Texas
4 Newspaper Foundation, and the Fort Worth Chapter of the Society of
5 Professional Journalists, he is also a past director of the Freedom
6 of Information Foundation of Texas; and

7 WHEREAS, He has also ably and generously served his community
8 as chief of the Decatur Volunteer Fire Department, chairman of the
9 board of Wise Regional Health System, and chairman of the Decatur
10 Airport Advisory Committee; in 1980 he was named Decatur's Citizen
11 of the Year; and

12 WHEREAS, Standing out among his many professional honors is
13 Mr. Eaton's receipt in 2004 of the Amos Award from the National
14 Newspaper Association for distinguished service and leadership in
15 the community newspaper business; in 2005 he received the
16 prestigious Ethics Award from the Schieffer School of Journalism at
17 Texas Christian University in recognition of his high ethical
18 standards in the profession of journalism; and

19 WHEREAS, During a long and exemplary career, Roy J. Eaton has
20 demonstrated unwavering commitment, boundless energy, and great
21 integrity in the service of his profession and his community; he is
22 an inspiration to journalists everywhere and a justly celebrated
23 Texas success story; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
25 Legislature hereby congratulate Roy J. Eaton for his induction into
26 the Texas Newspaper Foundation Hall of Fame and extend best wishes
27 to him for continued success; and, be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared for
2 Mr. Eaton as a token of high regard by the Texas House of
3 Representatives.