

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Robert Eckels stepped down in March
2 2007 from the office of county judge of Harris County after
3 rendering nationally acclaimed service in that critical post; and

4 WHEREAS, First elected as county judge in 1994, Judge Eckels
5 led the commissioners court of the third most populous county in the
6 nation for more than a decade; the Harris County Commissioners
7 Court, whose members collectively represent a population of over
8 3.6 million, is responsible for providing basic governmental
9 services to the more than one million county residents who live
10 outside the limits of any incorporated municipality; as head of the
11 commissioners court, Mr. Eckels also served as director of the
12 Harris County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
13 and represented the county on numerous boards, committees, and
14 regional councils of government; and

15 WHEREAS, Among the priorities on which Judge Eckels focused
16 during his tenure in office were transportation, homeland security,
17 and health care; while chairing the Transportation Policy Council
18 for the Houston-Galveston region, he played a vital role in
19 drafting the Regional Transportation 2025 Plan; in 2005 Speaker Tom
20 Craddick appointed him to the Study Commission on Transportation
21 Financing, and he chairs both the Alliance of I-69 Texas and the
22 Texas High Speed Rail & Transportation Corporation; and

23 WHEREAS, Under his leadership, the Harris County Office of
24 Homeland Security and Emergency Management became a national model

1 for preparedness and response to emergency situations; considered
2 an expert in local emergency management and response, Judge Eckels
3 has testified on such matters before committees of both the U.S.
4 House and Senate and serves on the state and local senior advisory
5 committee to the president's Homeland Security Council; and

6 WHEREAS, In order to facilitate better delivery of health
7 care services to uninsured and underinsured residents, Judge Eckels
8 guided Harris County and the Harris County Hospital District in
9 forging strong partnerships with nonprofit, private, public, and
10 faith-based health care providers and clinics; he is highly
11 regarded for his expertise in devising and implementing acceptable
12 air quality plans on the county level; and

13 WHEREAS, When Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated
14 sections of the Gulf Coast, Robert Eckels coordinated and managed
15 relief assistance for refugees that was widely admired for its
16 efficient administration; in recognition of his outstanding
17 efforts, he received the 2006 State Leader of the Year Award from
18 the Jon Ben Shepperd Public Leadership Institute, as well as
19 tributes from *American City and County* magazine, Partners for
20 Livable Communities, the National Conflict Resolution Center, the
21 Greater Houston Partnership, and *Esquire* magazine; and

22 WHEREAS, Before assuming the office of county judge, Judge
23 Eckels served six terms in the Texas House of Representatives, from
24 1983 to 1994; a native of Houston, he received his undergraduate
25 degree from the University of Houston and his law degree from South
26 Texas College of Law; he is currently a partner with Fulbright &
27 Jaworski; and

1 WHEREAS, Robert Eckels has exemplified the highest standards
2 of public service, and the conclusion of his tenure provides a
3 fitting opportunity to recognize his immeasurable contributions to
4 the people of Harris County; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
6 Legislature hereby commend the Honorable Robert Eckels for his
7 exceptional leadership as county judge of Harris County and extend
8 to him sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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

Harless

Craddick	Gattis	Miles
Allen	Geren	Miller
Alonzo	Giddings	Moreno
Anchia	Gonzales	Morrison
Anderson	Gonzalez Toureilles	Mowery
Aycock	Goolsby	Murphy
Bailey	Guillen	Naishtat
Berman	Haggerty	Noriega
Bohac	Hamilton	O'Day
Bolton	Hancock	Oliveira
Bonnen	Hardcastle	Olivo
Branch	Harless	Orr
Brown of Kaufman	Harper-Brown	Ortiz, Jr.
Brown of Brazos	Hartnett	Otto
Burnam	Heflin	Parker
Callegari	Hernandez	Patrick
Castro	Herrero	Paxton
Chavez	Hilderbran	Pena
Chisum	Hill	Phillips
Christian	Hochberg	Pickett
Cohen	Hodge	Pierson
Coleman	Homer	Pitts
Cook of Navarro	Hopson	Puente
Cook of Colorado	Howard of Fort Bend	Quintanilla
Corte	Howard of Travis	Raymond
Crabb	Hughes	Riddle
Creighton	Isett	Ritter
Crownover	Jackson	Rodriguez
Darby	Jones	Rose
Davis of Harris	Keffer	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Dallas	King of Parker	Smith of Harris
Delisi	King of Taylor	Smithee
Deshotel	King of Zavala	Solomons
Driver	Kolkhorst	Strama
Dukes	Krusee	Straus
Dunnam	Kuempel	Swinford
Dutton	Latham	Talton
Eiland	Laubenberg	Taylor
Eissler	Leibowitz	Thompson
Elkins	Lucio III	Truitt
England	Macias	Turner
Escobar	Madden	Van Arsdale
Farabee	Mallory Caraway	Vaught
Farias	Martinez	Veasey
Farrar	Martinez Fischer	Villarreal
Flores	McCall	Vo
Flynn	McClendon	West
Frost	McReynolds	Woolley
Gallego	Menendez	Zedler
Garcia	Merritt	Zerwas

H.R. No. 1817

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1817 was adopted by the House on May 1, 2007, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House