

By: Hardcastle

H.R. No. 910

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Business owners play an essential role in
2 maintaining the economic vitality of Texas communities, and Rob
3 Storey of Nocona Athletic Goods Company demonstrated his stalwart
4 commitment to his employees and to his town following a crisis that
5 could have permanently closed this highly regarded enterprise; and

6 WHEREAS, Founded in 1927 as the Nocona Leather Goods Company,
7 this signature North Texas business is celebrating its 75th
8 anniversary of manufacturing baseball mitts in 2009; the first
9 glove was made in 1934, after R. E. "Bob" Storey, a former Rice
10 University baseball player and Rob Storey's great-grandfather,
11 began working for the company; and

12 WHEREAS, Today, Nocona Athletic Goods Company is the only
13 company that still mass-produces baseball gloves in the United
14 States; it is the third-largest employer in Nocona, with a
15 workforce of 85 employees who make the renowned Nokona brand of
16 baseball mitt; and

17 WHEREAS, In 2006, an electrical short started a fire in the
18 company's 80-year-old factory, burning it to the ground; with many
19 jobs and the prosperity of the town on the line, Rob Storey, the
20 company's fourth-generation owner, immediately made a commitment
21 to keep the business going and to continue paying his entire staff;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Storey relocated the production line to a former
24 boot factory within a few days, and only two months later, the

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1 firm's workers were once again producing finished gloves;
2 remarkably, he was able to save the business without laying anyone
3 off or missing a single payroll; and

4 WHEREAS, Through his actions, Rob Storey has demonstrated a
5 level of loyalty, compassion, and dedication to his community to
6 which others may aspire, and it is indeed a pleasure to honor him
7 for his outstanding achievement; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
9 Legislature hereby commend Rob Storey of Nocona Athletic Goods
10 Company for preserving the jobs of his employees and the economy of
11 Nocona in the wake of a devastating fire and extend to him sincere
12 best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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