

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

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.