

By: Pitts

H.R. No. 2700

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends are mourning the loss of Ralph L.
2 D. Essary of Ennis, who died on January 26, 2009, at the age of 79;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Ralph Essary was born in Bonham on March 26, 1929, to
5 Douglas and Lucille Essary; in 1941, he moved to Ennis, where he
6 played football for Ennis High School, beginning a lifelong
7 devotion to the game and to the Ennis Lions; and

8 WHEREAS, After graduating in 1947, he became an apprentice
9 mechanic for Southern Pacific Railroad; he married Ruby Marie
10 Calhoun in 1948, and the following year the couple moved to Austin,
11 where Mr. Essary worked as a mechanic for Southern Pacific for 12
12 years; in 1962, he and his family returned to Ennis, and he
13 continued to work for Southern Pacific until his retirement in
14 1991, after 44 years with the railroad; and

15 WHEREAS, A well-respected member of the Ennis community, Mr.
16 Essary was a 32nd degree Mason and a founding member of the Sunbeam
17 Club for retired railroad employees; he was active in Helping Hands
18 of Ennis and volunteered at the Railroad and Cultural Heritage
19 Museum; for 15 years, he wrote a weekly column, "Ramblin' with
20 Ralph," for the *Ennis Daily News*, always carrying a notebook and
21 pencil with him to capture details for a column; he loved fishing,
22 and he looked forward to his annual trips to Rockport and New
23 Mexico; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Essary remained involved in athletics for much

1 of his life, coaching football and baseball and umpiring Little
2 League games as a young man; when he lived in Austin, he served as a
3 football official and was a member of the Southwest Conference
4 Football Officials Association; and

5 WHEREAS, A man of strong faith, he was a deacon and Sunday
6 school superintendent at the Northwest Baptist Church in Austin and
7 a deacon, Sunday school teacher, and committee member for the
8 Tabernacle Baptist Church in Ennis; Mr. and Mrs. Essary also worked
9 as mentors for Friendship Baptist Church; and

10 WHEREAS, Ralph Essary was a warmhearted, loyal, and generous
11 man who was devoted to his family, his faith, and his community, and
12 memories of him will forever live in the hearts of all who knew and
13 loved him; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
15 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Ralph L. D. Essary and
16 extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his wife
17 of 60 years, Ruby Essary; to his son, Derry Essary, and his wife,
18 Ann; to his brothers, Don, Ray, and Glen Essary; to his
19 grandchildren, Bryce Essary and his wife, Elisabeth, Jordan Essary
20 and his wife, Melissa, and Adair Essary and her fiancé, Brad Flynt;
21 to his great-grandchildren, Jaxson, Gunner, and Skylar Essary; and
22 to his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
25 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ralph
26 Essary.