

By: Geren

H.R. No. 2768

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The swift and selfless actions of several employees
2 of the Texas House of Representatives and the Texas Department of
3 Public Safety and others were instrumental in saving the life of a
4 beloved member of the Texas House on May 12, 2009; and

5 WHEREAS, That night, shortly after 10 p.m., house sergeant
6 Jennifer Irby discovered Chairman Edmund Kuempel slumped in the
7 corner of an elevator in the Capitol Extension; she checked his
8 vital signs and made a quick decision to take the elevator to the
9 first floor, where she knew she could enlist the help of a trooper;
10 once there, she notified Trooper Edwin Carpenter of the situation,
11 and he called for assistance on his radio; and

12 WHEREAS, Trooper Antonio Rico and Trooper Diane Riojas
13 responded to the call with an automated external defibrillator in
14 hand and helped Trooper Carpenter move the representative into the
15 elevator foyer; after determining that Representative Kuempel no
16 longer had a pulse, the troopers worked together to begin medical
17 aid; State Representative John Zerwas, an anesthesiologist by
18 profession, was alerted to the emergency and soon appeared on the
19 scene; under his guidance, Trooper Rico operated the defibrillator
20 and Trooper Riojas administered rescue breathing; at the same time,
21 Representative Zerwas provided chest compressions; and

22 WHEREAS, After most people would have given up, this
23 determined group of public servants continued their life-saving
24 measures in hopes of reviving Representative Kuempel; they tended

1 to him like he was a loved one, each investing his or her all in the
2 moment; in just one example, Trooper Rico did not cease monitoring
3 and operating the defibrillator until he could personally hand over
4 the chairman's care to emergency medical personnel; and

5 WHEREAS, Through it all, house sergeant-at-arms Rod Welsh and
6 house sergeant Trevor Rice provided invaluable support; both served
7 as a calming influence and helped to maintain order in the highly
8 charged atmosphere, and their efforts to secure the area enabled
9 Chairman Kuempel to receive the care he needed as quickly as
10 possible; and

11 WHEREAS, Once he arrived at University Medical Center
12 Brackenridge, Representative Kuempel benefited greatly from the
13 top-notch staff of the emergency room, and he was particularly
14 fortunate to be seen by Dr. Truman J. Milling and Dr. David W.
15 Hayes; meanwhile, Mr. Welsh and Mr. Rice were bringing order and
16 compassion to people in the overflowing waiting room and relaying
17 information to those who were anxiously awaiting further word; and

18 WHEREAS, Many people came together in support of this great
19 man; among them were DPS director Colonel Lamar Beckworth and DPS
20 chief of government relations Michael Kelley, as well as the
21 dedicated members of the Capitol DPS staff who were on duty that
22 evening; given the large volume of visitors who travel to the seat
23 of Texas government each day, these troopers are especially well
24 trained in life-saving techniques, and their ability to act
25 quickly, correctly, and under extreme pressure indicates that the
26 citizens of this state, and the legislators who represent them, are
27 indeed in good hands; and

1 WHEREAS, One of the longest-serving members of the Texas
2 House, Edmund Kuempel is known for his big smile and friendly
3 nature; his remarkable survival that night is due in large part to
4 the judgment, skill, and perseverance of a dedicated team of
5 professionals whose conduct in those first crucial minutes made the
6 critical difference in saving Chairman Kuempel's life; now,
7 therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
9 Legislature hereby honor Jennifer Irby, Trevor Rice, Rod Welsh,
10 Trooper Edwin Carpenter, Trooper Antonio Rico, Trooper Diane
11 Riojas, Colonel Lamar Beckworth, Michael Kelley, State
12 Representative John Zerwas, Dr. Truman J. Milling, Dr. David W.
13 Hayes, and Brackenridge emergency room and Capitol DPS staff for
14 their heroism in saving the life of a fellow Texan and extend to
15 them sincere appreciation for their extraordinary accomplishment;
16 and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for all those involved as an expression of high regard by
19 the Texas House of Representatives.