

By: Gonzales of Hidalgo

H.R. No. 55

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Ernie Madsen of Mission, who at age 99 is thought to
2 be the oldest active Rotarian in Texas, was honored in a special
3 ceremony on May 12, 2011; and

4 WHEREAS, A member of Rotary International for nearly eight
5 decades, Mr. Madsen first joined the group in 1932; he has been
6 named a Paul Harris Fellow for his support of the organization and
7 its initiatives; and

8 WHEREAS, Born on November 22, 1911, Ernie Madsen moved to
9 Mission with his family in 1919 after previously living in
10 Minnesota; his father had come to the United States from Denmark in
11 1904, and the Madsens arrived in Texas with two other immigrant
12 families; an accomplished football and track athlete in high
13 school, Mr. Madsen later enrolled at The University of Texas at
14 Austin and played football on the freshman team under Coach Shorty
15 Anderson; he was also trained as a gymnast; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Madsen's remarkable life has included
17 challenges as well as achievements; while on a construction job in
18 Laredo in the early 1940s, he fell more than 30 feet onto concrete,
19 breaking both wrists and both legs but escaping more serious injury
20 thanks to his gymnastics skills; he also worked at the Hanford Site
21 in Washington State, which played an important role in the
22 construction of the country's early atomic weapons, and he was
23 employed in the dairy business until 1962; he then took a job with a
24 pipe supply company, remaining there for 28 years; and

1 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Mr. Madsen has enjoyed the
2 love and support of his wife, Kathleen, with whom he shared many
3 years of rewarding partnership until her passing in 2001, and his
4 son, John; and

5 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan is a source of wisdom and
6 inspiration to all who are privileged to know him, and it is a
7 pleasure to recognize him for his longtime contributions to Rotary
8 International and for almost a century of life well lived; now,
9 therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
11 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby honor Ernie Madsen for his
12 many years of service to Rotary International and extend to him
13 sincere best wishes for continued happiness; and, be it further

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