

By: Thompson

H.C.R. No. 126

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The people of Texas lost an exemplary public servant
2 and a universally beloved member of the house of representatives
3 with the passing of the Honorable Edmund Kuempel of Seguin on
4 November 4, 2010, at the age of 67; and

5 WHEREAS, Representative Kuempel was born in Austin on
6 November 29, 1942, and graduated from Austin High School; after
7 earning a degree in business from Texas Lutheran College in 1964, he
8 went to work for Structural Metals, now CMC Steel Texas, in Seguin,
9 where he spent his entire career; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1982, Edmund Kuempel won the first of 15
11 consecutive terms in the house of representatives; enormously
12 popular in his district, he frequently ran unopposed in the general
13 election; at the statehouse, he quickly gained the respect of his
14 colleagues, securing an appointment to the Ways and Means Committee
15 during his freshman term and the Appropriations Committee during
16 his second; at the time of his passing, he was the third most senior
17 member of the house, chair of the Licensing and Administrative
18 Procedures Committee, and a senior member of the Calendars and
19 Culture, Recreation, and Tourism Committees; he had previously
20 chaired the Committees on Retirement and Aging, State Recreational
21 Resources, and House Administration; in the latter capacity, he
22 helped to oversee extensive restoration of the Capitol and the
23 construction of the underground Capitol Extension; and

24 WHEREAS, A tireless champion of his constituents' interests,

1 Representative Kuempel also supported the development of the
2 state's parks and recreation areas, played a vital role in shaping
3 and passing environmental regulations, and was similarly
4 instrumental in crafting and shepherding legislation relating to
5 state, teacher, municipal, and county retirement funds; and

6 WHEREAS, Throughout his 28 years in the house of
7 representatives, Edmund Kuempel consistently reflected the
8 greatest honor on that chamber; selfless, hardworking, and
9 scrupulously honest, he also had a boundless capacity for
10 friendship, one that was never constrained by differences of
11 opinion or of party affiliation; Edmund Kuempel simply loved
12 people, and he treated every single individual he encountered with
13 unfailing graciousness and good cheer; his warm smile and jovial
14 nature were legendary, as were his infinite kindness and
15 generosity; those qualities engendered tremendous respect and
16 affection and enabled him to build the kind of bridges between
17 political camps that foster good governance; and

18 WHEREAS, Among the host of accolades bestowed on
19 Representative Kuempel were the John Traeger Award from the Texas
20 Municipal Retirement System, Man of the Year Award from the Texas
21 County Agricultural Agents Association, Career Achievement Award
22 and Legislative Leadership Award from the Texas Chamber of
23 Commerce, and Leader of Excellence Award from the Free Market
24 Committee; Texas Lutheran University conferred on him its
25 Distinguished Service Award and inducted him into its Athletics
26 Leadership Wall of Honor Class of 2009; and

27 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan remained deeply engaged in the

1 life of his district, where his myriad activities included speaking
2 at community functions and wielding the auctioneer's gavel at
3 fund-raising events for worthy causes; together with his wife,
4 Roberta "Birdie" Blumberg Kuempel, he was an active and valued
5 member of Faith Lutheran Church; and

6 WHEREAS, Representative Edmund Kuempel was the genuine
7 article, a gentleman and statesman in every sense of those words,
8 and his colleagues in the house of representatives will forever
9 remember his joyous spirit and his unwavering devotion to the Lone
10 Star State; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the 82nd Legislature of the State of Texas
12 hereby pay tribute to the life of the Honorable Edmund Kuempel and
13 extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his
14 wife, Roberta "Birdie" Kuempel; to his daughter and son-in-law,
15 Margaret and Walter Brady; to his son and daughter-in-law, John and
16 Michelle Kuempel; to his grandchildren, Rose Brady and Will and Sam
17 Kuempel; to his father, Henry Kuempel; to his brother and
18 sister-in-law, Robert and Jamie Kuempel; to his aunt, Marilyn
19 Kuempel Smith; and to his many other relatives and friends; and, be
20 it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
23 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
24 the Honorable Edmund Kuempel.