

By: Legler

H.R. No. 816

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The 80th birthday of a respected entrepreneur is
2 indeed cause for celebration, and Sam W. Meineke of League City is
3 marking this important milestone on March 19, 2011; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in 1931 in Oklahoma, Sam Meineke learned at an
5 early age the value of hard work; the son of a sharecropper, he
6 picked cotton seven days a week and distracted himself from the
7 job's physical demands by dreaming of a future in which he would
8 attain the success of men like Henry Ford and Andrew Carnegie, whom
9 he'd read about in school; and

10 WHEREAS, His family left the cotton fields in 1944 to come to
11 Pasadena, Texas; there Mr. Meineke quickly found employment mowing
12 lawns in the neighborhood and working at a filling station;
13 throughout high school he continued to work, sometimes holding down
14 three jobs at a time in order to contribute to the family finances
15 and save what he could; and

16 WHEREAS, By the time he was 21, he was able to make a down
17 payment on the purchase of a service station, and with a friend from
18 high school, he invested in a number of other ventures; although
19 most of these ultimately lost money, he learned from his mistakes
20 and persevered; in 1957, the pair opened Bass and Meineke Auto
21 Parts, and the store became a success; by 1970, when Mr. Meineke
22 sold his share to his partner, the business had grown into a
23 lucrative chain of 12 stores; and

24 WHEREAS, Eager for a new opportunity, Mr. Meineke opened his

1 first muffler shop later that same year; he expanded to four
2 additional locations and, together with Harold Nedell, an
3 experienced manager in the industry, decided to franchise the
4 company; by the time the business was sold in 1983, there were
5 hundreds of Meineke Car Care Centers throughout the United States
6 and beyond; and

7 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Mr. Meineke has enjoyed the
8 love and support of his wife, Sadye, and their six children, Cheri
9 Meineke-Johnson, Deborah Zonana, Peggy Meineke, Sherrye Bourgeois,
10 Jerre Barron, and Brian Barron; the couple have also shared in the
11 joy of welcoming into their family eight grandchildren, Ryan and
12 Samantha Zonana, Lacey Derrington, Jerred, Kerre, Justin, and
13 Brandi Barron, and Jeremy Faggard, as well as a great-grandchild,
14 Thomas Derrington; and

15 WHEREAS, The remarkable journey of Sam Meineke, from
16 impoverished sharecropper to prosperous business magnate,
17 constitutes a quintessential Texas success story, and his 80th
18 birthday provides a welcome opportunity to recognize his many
19 inspiring achievements along the way; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
21 Legislature hereby congratulate Sam W. Meineke on the occasion of
22 his 80th birthday and extend to him sincere best wishes for
23 continued happiness; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for Mr. Meineke as an expression of high regard by the
26 Texas House of Representatives.