

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Cooke family of Rockdale is celebrating
2 100 years of consecutive ownership and operation of the
3 *Rockdale Reporter* on May 29, 2011; and

4 WHEREAS, John Esten Cooke purchased the *Rockdale Reporter and*
5 *Messenger* in May 1911, and he began working there on the 29th of
6 that month; the first edition produced under his leadership was
7 published on June 1; and

8 WHEREAS, The paper has since been passed down through three
9 generations of Mr. Cooke's descendants, including W. H. Cooke, his
10 son, J. W. "Bill" Cooke, his grandson, and Ken Esten Cooke and
11 Kathy Cooke Martin, his great-grandchildren, who together
12 oversee the *Rockdale Reporter* today; in addition, his
13 great-great-granddaughter, Katie Cooke-Garza, works at the paper
14 as a reporter; and

15 WHEREAS, One of the Lone Star State's most honored weekly
16 newspapers, the *Rockdale Reporter* has won sweepstakes from the
17 South Texas Press Association for the last four years in a row,
18 bringing its total to 14 in recent decades; and

19 WHEREAS, For 100 years, the *Rockdale Reporter* has served as a
20 vital resource for area residents, and its enduring success is a
21 testament to the business values and journalism standards that John
22 Esten Cooke established and on which his descendants have built;
23 now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas

H.R. No. 2195

1 Legislature hereby congratulate the Cooke family on 100 consecutive
2 years of ownership of the *Rockdale Reporter* and extend to them and
3 their staff sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it
4 further

5 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
6 prepared for the Cooke family as an expression of high regard by the
7 Texas House of Representatives.

Schwertner

H.R. No. 2195

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2195 was adopted by the House on May 30, 2011, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House