

By: Schwertner

H.R. No. 2195

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

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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.