

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 276

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and generous life drew to a close with the  
2 death of Erich E. Wendl of Corpus Christi on February 27, 2012, at  
3 the age of 80; and

4 WHEREAS, Erich Wendl was born on November 13, 1931, in  
5 Munich, Germany, to Johann and Emilie Wendl; after immigrating to  
6 the United States in 1953, he accepted an internship at HEB in  
7 Harlingen to study the American grocery business; while in  
8 Harlingen, he met his future wife, Elvira Castillo, and with the  
9 passing years, their family grew to include two children, Karl and  
10 Barbara; and

11 WHEREAS, From 1954 to 1956 Mr. Wendl honorably served in the  
12 United States Army; he became a naturalized citizen of his adopted  
13 country during his tour of duty; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1961, after success as a top salesperson for  
15 Boggus Motor Company in Harlingen, he bought five Corpus Christi  
16 convenience stores; he renamed them Maverick Markets, and his  
17 handful of properties eventually grew to include 102 locations  
18 across South Texas; he sold Maverick Markets to Coastal Market  
19 Incorporated in 1995; in recognition of his long and successful  
20 career, Mr. Wendl was inducted into the Corpus Christi Business  
21 Hall of Fame in 2005; and

22 WHEREAS, This respected entrepreneur was one of the original  
23 founders of the National Association of Convenience Stores and was  
24 elected president of the organization in 1979; he served as

1 president of the Corpus Christi District Retail Grocers Association  
2 in 1965 and 1966 and was elected to the Corpus Christi Chamber of  
3 Commerce board of directors in 1971; the following year, he became  
4 president of the Texas Retail Grocers Association, and in 1975 he  
5 was named Retail Grocer of the Year by the National Association of  
6 Retail Grocers of the United States; and

7 WHEREAS, In addition to achieving success in retail,  
8 Mr. Wendl served on the board of the San Antonio branch of the  
9 Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas; appointed in 1990, he was named  
10 chair in 1993 and served in that capacity through 1996; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Wendl gave back to the Corpus Christi community  
12 by serving on the boards of the Art Museum of South Texas, the  
13 Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra, the Christus Spohn Health System  
14 Foundation, and the local chapter of the National Conference of  
15 Christians and Jews; he played an active role in the Corpus Christi  
16 Rotary Club, the Corpus Christi Mustangs, and numerous other local  
17 organizations; and

18 WHEREAS, A member of the German Society of the Coastal Bend,  
19 Mr. Wendl was made an honorary consul of the Federal Republic of  
20 Germany and was awarded the Order of Merit from the German  
21 government; while he never lost his German accent, he would always  
22 answer those curious about his origin by saying proudly, "I'm a  
23 Texan by choice"; and

24 WHEREAS, Though Erich Wendl achieved extraordinary success  
25 in the business world, it is his humility, generosity, and devotion  
26 to his family for which he will be remembered; now, therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas

1 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Erich E. Wendl and  
2 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife,  
3 Elvira Castillo Wendl; to his children, Karl D. Wendl and his wife,  
4 Julie, and Barbara Pender and her husband, Donald; to his  
5 grandchildren, Erich Wendl II, Brittany Ann Wendl, Rose Elizabeth  
6 Pender, and Claire Miriam Pender; to his nephew, Dr. Florian Wendl,  
7 and his niece, Johanna Wendl; to his sister-in-law, Gisela  
8 Schmitt-Wendl; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it  
9 further

10       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
11 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
12 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Erich  
13 E. Wendl.