

By: Martinez Fischer

H.R. No. 1145

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Through his innovation and philanthropy, Graham  
2 Weston is helping to make San Antonio an even better place in which  
3 to live and work; and

4           WHEREAS, Born and raised in the area, Mr. Weston has been an  
5 entrepreneur since seventh grade, when he formed a business  
6 marketing organic pork; he continued creating new ventures during  
7 high school and later as a student at Texas A&M University; after  
8 graduating, he entered the real estate market, and at the age of 28,  
9 he led a group of investors to acquire and develop a 30-story office  
10 building in downtown San Antonio; now known as the Weston Centre,  
11 the property houses some of the city's best-known companies; and

12           WHEREAS, Mr. Weston and a partner later provided the original  
13 capital for a business idea pitched by three Trinity University  
14 students; the resulting company, Rackspace, hosts computing and  
15 cloud computing services and has become a global leader in the  
16 industry; as the former CEO and current chairman, Mr. Weston has  
17 overseen Rackspace's growth in the Alamo City, where today it  
18 employs more than 4,000 people; and

19           WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan is also involved in numerous  
20 projects to revitalize the city's urban core; he is one of the  
21 tri-chairs of the SA2020 community process, a long-term planning  
22 initiative to address education, transportation, and downtown  
23 development issues in the city, and he cofounded Geekdom, a  
24 workspace where technologists, developers, entrepreneurs, and

1 creative thinkers collaborate to build new businesses; and

2 WHEREAS, Equally admired for his philanthropy, Mr. Weston  
3 converted one of his vacant properties into a temporary shelter for  
4 more than 2,500 refugees of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; moreover,  
5 he and Rackspace employees have donated \$2 million in grants toward  
6 improving local schools, providing supplies, and funding mentoring  
7 programs, including SparkEd, a series of weekend camps for seventh  
8 and eighth graders focused on technology and entrepreneurialism;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Weston is the recipient of many honors, among  
11 them the 2011 International Citizen of the Year Award from the World  
12 Affairs Council of San Antonio and the 2011 Conn Family  
13 Entrepreneurial Leadership Award; in addition, he was selected as  
14 Regional Entrepreneur of the Year by Ernst & Young and named a "Best  
15 Boss" by *Fortune Small Business* magazine; and

16 WHEREAS, Graham Weston's enthusiasm, drive, and dedication  
17 to the city he's proud to call home have immeasurably benefited his  
18 fellow residents, and he is an inspiration to future leaders  
19 throughout the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
21 Legislature hereby honor Graham Weston for his outstanding  
22 contributions to San Antonio and extend to him sincere best wishes  
23 for continued success; and, be it further

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