

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A 55th wedding anniversary marks a lifetime of
2 mutual devotion and shared experiences, and Peter DeWitt and Rita
3 Cook Anderson of Wimberley are marking this happy milestone on July
4 26, 2013; and

5 WHEREAS, The future husband and wife met as members of a
6 wedding party in San Marcos, where last-minute groomsman Pete
7 Anderson first saw bridesmaid Rita Jean Cook, who, he recalls, was
8 the prettiest girl he had ever seen; when the festivities
9 concluded, the young pilot was bound for San Antonio en route to a
10 15-month deployment at the U.S. Air Force station on Alaska's Fire
11 Island; Miss Cook was finishing up her studies at The University of
12 Texas and making the most of her remaining time in Austin with her
13 Kappa Alpha Theta sorority sisters and her many friends on campus;
14 during that time, however, Mr. Anderson was never far from her
15 mind, and the pair continued to see each other when their schedules
16 and geography permitted; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1958, Pete Anderson and Rita Cook were joined in
18 matrimony at First United Methodist Church in San Marcos, and that
19 special day closed with a memorable reception hosted by the bride's
20 parents, Dr. Vernon R. Cook and Idella Moore Cook; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Anderson graduated with a degree in business
22 from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut; after completing her
23 bachelor's degree in education at UT, Mrs. Anderson went on to earn
24 a master's degree in education from Tulane University in New

1 Orleans, where Mr. Anderson was based early in his career with
2 Delta Airlines; and

3 WHEREAS, The couple raised their children, Allison,
4 Christopher, and Peter, in Hunter's Creek Village in the Memorial
5 area of Houston, where life was rich with good friends and special
6 neighbors as well as a full calendar of football and baseball games
7 and school and scouting activities; in the 1970s, when professional
8 ice hockey arrived in Houston and ushered in a number of youth
9 league offshoots, Mr. Anderson, a Canadian prep school graduate and
10 one of the few parents who knew the game and could skate, promptly
11 began coaching for his sons' teams; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1992, after Captain Anderson's retirement from
13 Delta, he and his wife built a hilltop home in Wimberley, and they
14 have since spent more than two decades there, joyfully celebrating
15 life with a close group of friends known as "the family" as well as
16 their own family, which has grown to include a daughter-in-law,
17 Leah O'Keefe Anderson, and two grandchildren, Kaitlyn and Carter
18 O'Keefe Anderson; Mrs. Anderson also reunites annually with the
19 "Bobby Soxers," best friends from her days as a cheerleader for the
20 Rattlers football team at San Marcos High School; the couple
21 further take delight in Austin's many cultural offerings and are
22 loyal season ticket holders to Longhorn football games; and

23 WHEREAS, Active in the Wimberley community, the Andersons
24 volunteer and support many organizations that benefit local youth
25 scholarships, water quality, historical restoration, the arts, and
26 other worthy programs; they have been members of St. Stephen's
27 Episcopal Church since its earliest days, and they were likewise

1 faithful congregants at St. Martin's Episcopal Church while in
2 Houston; and

3 WHEREAS, The couple have always counted travel among their
4 pastimes, both during Mr. Anderson's 35-year career and since, and
5 they have toured numerous countries and most of the United States;
6 summer backpacking and winter skiing trips to Colorado were family
7 highlights, as were hot summer days floating in chilly Cypress
8 Creek; another favorite destination, Paris, has always had special
9 family significance, as it is where Mr. Anderson's father, Samuel
10 Irvine Anderson, met his bride-to-be, Mildred Allison Anderson,
11 just after World War II; and

12 WHEREAS, Over the years, Pete and Rita Anderson have grown to
13 cherish each other's unique backgrounds; a New Englander whose
14 family history dates back to the Mayflower, Mr. Anderson hails from
15 the land of rep ties and blue blazers, while Mrs. Anderson is a bona
16 fide Daughter of the Republic of Texas with deep family roots in
17 Gonzales; nonetheless, Mrs. Anderson has sampled lobster dinners
18 at her husband's family home in Barnstable on Cape Cod, while
19 Mr. Anderson has learned to wear cowboy boots and drive cattle on
20 horseback, though he has yet to master the two-step; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have enjoyed five and a half
22 decades of abiding love and affection for each other, and they are
23 among an exceptional group of men and women who can claim such a
24 lasting commitment; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
26 Legislature hereby congratulate Pete and Rita Anderson on their
27 55th wedding anniversary and extend to them sincere best wishes for

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1 continued happiness; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for Mr. and Mrs. Anderson as an expression of high regard
4 by the Texas House of Representatives.

Isaac

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2919 was adopted by the House on May 26, 2013, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House