

By: Isaac

H.R. No. 2919

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

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.