

By: Menendez

H.R. No. 2980

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The passing of Brian H. Eckler of San Antonio on
2 April 23, 2013, at the age of 69, has brought a great loss to his
3 family, his friends, and the community he served with such
4 dedication; and

5 WHEREAS, Born September 15, 1943, in Johnstown, New York,
6 Brian Eckler was the son of George and Helen Eckler; he graduated
7 from Johnstown High School and embarked on a long and distinguished
8 career in the United States Air Force; first posted to Norfolk,
9 England, he went on to serve in Diyarbakir, Turkey, and at the
10 Presidential Aeronautical Station on Andrews Air Force Base in
11 Maryland; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Eckler met his future wife, Lora Devlon
13 Kartchner, while stationed in the Washington, D.C., area, and after
14 their marriage, he was transferred to Goodfellow AFB in San Angelo
15 to prepare for entry into the USAF Security Service; he served at
16 Karamursel Common Defense Installation, Turkey, and then with the
17 6970 Electronic Security Group at the National Security Agency in
18 Maryland; further training took him to Corry Naval Station in
19 Pensacola, Florida, where he developed an enduring fondness for
20 pink flamingos; and

21 WHEREAS, During a posting with the 6920 ESG at Misawa AFB in
22 Japan, Mr. Eckler joined his wife in volunteering to instruct local
23 teachers in conversational English and American customs; his
24 subsequent adventures included two stints with the Air Force

1 Cryptologic Support Center at Kelly AFB and a remote, unaccompanied
2 tour to 2146th Com Group, Osan Air Base, in South Korea, which
3 enabled him to visit every mountaintop in the country at least once;
4 he finally retired at the rank of master sergeant in 1987, long
5 after he had reached his eligibility as a disabled veteran; still
6 not quite ready to relax, he joined an elite team of security
7 experts dispatched to the new embassy in Moscow, Russia, on a
8 mission that required improvising outdoor inspection procedures in
9 temperatures that plunged to 40 below zero; and

10 WHEREAS, Once settled in San Antonio, Mr. Eckler became very
11 active in his neighborhood association and volunteered tirelessly
12 alongside his wife at the local library and elementary school, as
13 well as at a host of community events; he was always ready to lend a
14 hand when needed, and he enjoyed caring for feral cats and kittens,
15 in addition to his own cat, Ms. Bootsie; he worked some night shifts
16 in security, and in his spare time, he was a voracious reader and
17 researcher; he liked cooking elaborate meals, discovering new food,
18 and driving around in his vintage Volkswagen bus with its
19 ever-changing bumper stickers; having grown a snowy beard to
20 complement his mustache, he was often mistaken for Santa by
21 delighted children, although his wardrobe of colorful T-shirts
22 would never have passed muster at the North Pole; and

23 WHEREAS, Brian Eckler will be deeply missed, and those who
24 were fortunate enough to know him will forever remember their
25 favorite explorer, who never stopped learning and lived life to the
26 fullest for all of his days; now, therefore, be it

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

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1 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Brian H. Eckler and
2 extend sincere sympathy to his wife of 44 years, Lora Eckler, and to
3 his other loved ones; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
6 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Brian
7 Eckler.