

By: Herrero

H.R. No. 848

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Residents of Corpus Christi lost a remarkable  
2 citizen with the passing of entrepreneur Wilford George Wilcox on  
3 January 18, 2015, at the age of 100; and

4           WHEREAS, Bill Wilcox was born on May 25, 1914, in Iowa, and he  
5 was introduced to the furniture business at an early age; his  
6 mother's family owned Bekins Moving and Storage, and during the  
7 Great Depression, he sold furniture for the company in its Sioux  
8 City store; and

9           WHEREAS, In 1953, when he was 39, Mr. Wilcox and his wife,  
10 Marcia, moved with their three children, George, Kaye, and Norman,  
11 to Corpus Christi; a few years later, their fourth child, Ray, was  
12 born; and

13           WHEREAS, In Corpus Christi, Mr. Wilcox opened his own  
14 furniture store in a 4,000-square-foot Quonset hut with no running  
15 water, and in the beginning, he delivered furniture himself with a  
16 trailer pulled behind his Chevy; within 10 years' time, the  
17 business had grown to employ 40 people and use four delivery trucks,  
18 and by 1995, Wilcox Furniture had expanded to several locations;  
19 Mr. Wilcox ran the company himself until just before his 95th  
20 birthday in 2009, and it continues to be a thriving, family-run  
21 enterprise today, with three locations; and

22           WHEREAS, Mr. Wilcox became a widower in March 1990, and he  
23 was later fortunate to find love again with Helen Magill, who owned  
24 a rival furniture company; the couple lived together in Trinity

1 Towers, where on Monday nights, Mr. Wilcox led sing-alongs of old  
2 favorites such as "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" and "Carolina in the  
3 Morning"; and

4 WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Mr. Wilcox was an engaged and  
5 caring member of his community; in 1970, he helped found and lead  
6 Family Debt Counselors to assist local citizens with debt issues,  
7 and for many years, he provided furniture to the Women's Shelter of  
8 South Texas as well as rocking chairs to local maternity wards; he  
9 also established the Marcia K. Wilcox Scholarship Fund after his  
10 first wife's death, which was formed to enable cancer patients from  
11 Driscoll Children's Hospital to attend college; and

12 WHEREAS, Over the course of his long life, Bill Wilcox raised  
13 a fine family and built a business that became an institution in  
14 Corpus Christi, and he leaves behind a record of hard work,  
15 integrity, and compassion that will continue to inspire all those  
16 who knew and loved him; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
18 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Wilford George  
19 Wilcox and extend sincere condolences to his children, George  
20 Wilcox, Kaye Wilcox West, Norman Wilcox, and Ray Wilcox, and to his  
21 other relatives and friends; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
23 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
24 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Wilford  
25 George Wilcox.