

By: Canales

H.R. No. 2490

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Edwards Abstract and Title Company is celebrating
2 its 135th anniversary in May 2015; and

3 WHEREAS, A leading title company in the Rio Grande Valley,
4 the firm was established in 1880 by Judge James Henry Edwards, who
5 played a key role in clearing land titles in Hidalgo and Starr
6 Counties; he spent many years gathering data for properties from
7 early settlers and old records, and he often visited the archives in
8 San Carlos, Mexico, to find missing heirs to Spanish land grants;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Judge Edwards died in 1925, and his wife, L. S.
11 Edwards, incorporated the firm with her sons, James and Cecil
12 Edwards; the family continued to operate the company in Edinburg
13 until 1984, when they sold it to Jesse D. Hedrick; he expanded the
14 business, opening new locations in McAllen, Weslaco, Mission, and
15 Sharyland Plantation; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2001, Byron Jay Lewis purchased the company, and
17 he served as president before taking on the roles of board chair and
18 chief executive officer; he is also a founding partner in the law
19 firm of Lewis, Monroe, and Peña, which serves as counsel to the
20 company; today, Edwards Abstract and Title employs more than 80
21 people at offices in Brownsville, Edinburg, Harlingen, McAllen,
22 Mission, South Padre Island, and Weslaco; and

23 WHEREAS, Few businesses can claim a distinguished history
24 spanning well over a century, and it is indeed a pleasure to

1 recognize Edwards Abstract and Title Company as it marks this
2 significant milestone; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
4 Legislature hereby congratulate Edwards Abstract and Title Company
5 on its 135th anniversary and extend to all those associated with the
6 firm sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

7 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
8 prepared for the company as an expression of high regard by the
9 Texas House of Representatives.