

By: Biedermann

H.C.R. No. 130

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Ken Mercer is retiring from USAA on
2 February 28, 2019, drawing to a close an outstanding career in the
3 insurance and financial services industry that has spanned nearly
4 three and a half decades; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Mercer earned a bachelor's degree in biology
6 from The University of Texas at Austin, a bachelor's degree in
7 business administration from UT San Antonio, and a master's degree
8 in business administration from St. Mary's University; he joined
9 USAA in November 1984, and over the course of his 34-year career in
10 information technology, he has played a leading role in
11 implementing the first information engineering workstations,
12 processes, and procedures, and he has served as lead internal
13 consultant for the company's first use of rapid application
14 development (RAD) technologies; and

15 WHEREAS, Later in his career, Mr. Mercer led projects to
16 develop financial systems, telecommunications accounting, disaster
17 recovery, and enterprise software and hardware asset management,
18 and he helped implement new acquisition processes to select
19 company-wide software suites and hardware; he is retiring as a
20 project manager for critical enterprise-wide migrations of several
21 important software systems; and

22 WHEREAS, From 2003 to 2005, Mr. Mercer represented District
23 117 in the Texas House of Representatives, and he served on the
24 Higher Education, House Administration, and Transportation

1 committees; during his tenure, he worked to ensure that children of
2 military families serving overseas could pay in-state tuition, and
3 he played an instrumental role in legislation that created the San
4 Antonio campus of Texas A&M University and brought Toyota to San
5 Antonio; he also helped create the city's Memorial Highway in honor
6 of the U.S. Army's 2nd Indian Head Division, and he became only the
7 second civilian to be made a "Lifetime Member" of the division; and

8 WHEREAS, Currently, Mr. Mercer is serving his fourth term as
9 a member of the State Board of Education, where he represents 13
10 counties and 1.6 million Texans; as chair of the board's Charter
11 School Committee, he helped establish the first dual-language
12 Hebrew-English immersion program in Texas and the first trilingual
13 Spanish-English-Mandarin program; he has also worked to ensure that
14 history and government curriculum includes the contributions of our
15 men and women in uniform; and

16 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Mercer enjoys the love and
17 support of his wife, Rosalia, his daughters, Rebekah Mercer and
18 Sarah Fisher, and his son-in-law, Ryan Fisher; and

19 WHEREAS, Ken Mercer's dedication, professionalism, and
20 commitment to excellence have earned him the respect and admiration
21 of his professional peers, and he may indeed reflect with pride on
22 his outstanding record of achievement; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
24 hereby congratulate the Honorable Ken Mercer on his retirement from
25 USAA and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be
26 it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for Mr. Mercer as an expression of high regard by the Texas
2 House of Representatives and Senate.