

By: King of Parker

H.R. No. 318

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Roy Eaton of Decatur retired as publisher of the
2 *Wise County Messenger* at the end of 2018, concluding a noteworthy
3 45-year tenure at the helm of the newspaper; and

4 WHEREAS, A Decatur native, Mr. Eaton was still a Texas
5 Christian University undergrad when a Fort Worth radio station
6 hired him as a part-time reporter and then promoted him to news
7 director; he went on to become news director at the Dallas-Fort
8 Worth NBC radio affiliate and, later, a news anchor for the local
9 NBC television station; in 1973, he returned to his hometown with
10 his wife, Jeannine, and they purchased the nearly century-old *Wise*
11 *County Messenger*; under his leadership, it won more than 150 awards
12 for excellence in news coverage, advertising, and design; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Eaton has served his profession in numerous
14 capacities; in 1992, he was elected to the board of the National
15 Newspaper Association, and he went on to serve as president of that
16 organization as well as of the Texas Press Association and the Texas
17 Newspaper Foundation; the recipient of myriad accolades, he was
18 inducted into the inaugural class of the Texas Newspaper Hall of
19 Fame; and

20 WHEREAS, Deeply committed to his community, Mr. Eaton was
21 named 1980 Citizen of the Year for his work in developing a
22 countywide emergency medical service system; he successfully
23 advocated for a Decatur community college campus and a \$5 million
24 conference center; among numerous leadership roles, he was

1 president of the Decatur Chamber of Commerce, chair of the Wise
2 Health System, chief of the Decatur Fire Department, and a director
3 of the North Central Texas Council of Governments; he was also an
4 announcer for the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo for more than four
5 decades; and

6 WHEREAS, Roy Eaton has exemplified the highest ideals of the
7 journalism profession, informing and educating his readers while
8 playing a vital role in the life of his community, and in so doing,
9 he has earned the deep respect and appreciation of all who are
10 fortunate enough to know him; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
12 Legislature hereby congratulate Roy Eaton on his retirement as
13 publisher of the *Wise County Messenger* and extend to him sincere
14 best wishes for continued happiness; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for Mr. Eaton as an expression of high regard by the Texas
17 House of Representatives.