

By: Anderson

H.R. No. 1739

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Donald J. Baker is retiring from the Woodway City
2 Council in May 2019, drawing to a close a notable career in public
3 service that has spanned nearly three decades; and

4 WHEREAS, A member of the council since 1991, Mr. Baker was
5 first chosen as the city's mayor by his fellow council members in
6 1994; he held the position until 2010 and again from 2011 to 2018,
7 making him the longest-serving mayor in Woodway's history; during
8 his exemplary 22-year tenure in that post, he dedicated himself to
9 preserving the city's unique character, resisting development that
10 would adversely affect its pleasant residential neighborhoods; he
11 was also instrumental in the successful effort to build the Highway
12 84 overpasses, and he has been a strong advocate for the city's
13 employees, supporting changes to compensation and benefits to help
14 retain Woodway's workforce; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Baker was born in Austin and moved to Waco as a
16 child; after graduating from Waco High School in 1958, he earned a
17 bachelor's degree in accounting and a law degree from Baylor
18 University and an additional law degree from the New York
19 University Graduate Law School; he maintained a successful legal
20 practice for many years with his partners, Thomas Hancock and Brian
21 Pollard, before retiring in 2018; and

22 WHEREAS, In addition to his other responsibilities,
23 Mr. Baker has further contributed to his community through his
24 support of Little League and Texas Teen-Age Baseball, the Boy

1 Scouts of America, Downtown Waco, Goodwill, and Ducks Unlimited; he
2 is also a member of the congregation at First Woodway Baptist
3 Church; in all his endeavors, he enjoys the love and support of his
4 wife, Charlie, with whom he has shared 53 years of marriage, and he
5 takes great pride in his two children and three grandchildren; and

6 WHEREAS, Don Baker's integrity and leadership have greatly
7 benefited the citizens of Woodway and earned him the respect and
8 admiration of his fellow council members, and he may indeed reflect
9 with pride on his remarkable record of public service; now,
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
12 Legislature hereby congratulate Donald J. Baker on his retirement
13 from the Woodway City Council and extend to him sincere best wishes
14 for continued happiness; and, be it further

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