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By:  Canales H.R. No. 340

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Robert C. Vackar and Janet Ogden Vackar have set an inspiring example for the Rio Grande Valley business community through their extensive philanthropic efforts; and

WHEREAS, The owners of the Bert Ogden Auto Group, the Vackars have given generously of their financial resources to numerous worthy causes, and they are especially staunch champions of higher education; in 2016, the couple presented The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley with the largest scholarship gift in the history of the institution, providing $2 million to create scholarship endowments for aspiring entrepreneurs and students pursuing degrees in mass communications; they have also helped fund the Susan Lewis Vackar Clark Endowed Memorial Scholarship, established in tribute to Mr. Vackar's late sister, an elementary school teacher; and

WHEREAS, The Vackars are longtime benefactors of Easterseals Rio Grande Valley, and they have supported veterans groups, food banks, and such organizations as Boys & Girls Clubs, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and the Palm Valley Animal Society; in 2012, they chaired the inaugural holiday fundraiser for the Renaissance Cancer Foundation, and Ms. Vackar has been a member of the board of the Vannie Cook Cancer Foundation and a sustaining member of the Junior League of McAllen; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, the Vackars became the first couple selected as recipients of the prestigious Border Texans of the Year award; UTRGV named its Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship in honor of Mr. Vackar, and the Edinburg Consolidated Independent School District named its Janet Ogden Vackar Sports Complex in recognition of Ms. Vackar's many good works in behalf of area children; moreover, the couple were instrumental in the effort to name the Bert Ogden Arena in Edinburg in memory of Ms. Vackar's father, who founded the family's chain of auto dealerships; in all their endeavors, the Vackars benefit from the love and support of their daughter and son-in-law, Kristin and Will McCullough, and grandchildren, Walt, Sawyer, Emmylou, and Dorothy Sabine; and

WHEREAS, Robert and Janet Vackar have demonstrated a lasting commitment to making the Rio Grande Valley a better place for all, and in so doing, they have earned the deep respect and appreciation of their fellow residents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby commend Robert C. Vackar and Janet Ogden Vackar for their contributions to the Rio Grande Valley and extend to them sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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