

By: Guillen

H.R. No. 135

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, La Vernia lost an admired civic leader with the
2 passing of former mayor Ewald Edward Koepf Jr. on March 20, 2016, at
3 the age of 86; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of E. O. and Theresa Koepf, "Junior" Koepf
5 was born on February 3, 1930; he played football as a student at La
6 Vernia High School and Texas Lutheran University, and he served his
7 country in the U.S. military during the Korean War; following in his
8 father's footsteps, he began working in the automotive industry at
9 an early age, and in 1969, he took over the family business, Koepf
10 Chevrolet; he dedicated himself to providing top-notch customer
11 service and the dealership flourished; he also took pride in his
12 role as developer of the Silverado Hills and Westover subdivisions;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Koepf served his community in numerous
15 leadership roles; during 14 years as mayor, he oversaw the paving of
16 roads and the installation of a sewer system, among other
17 improvements; he further served as a member of the county school
18 board and Wilson County appraisal board and as an officer in the
19 volunteer fire department; a founder of the La Vernia Chamber of
20 Commerce and the Greater La Vernia Chamber of Commerce, he was an
21 active member of the Lions Club, Sons of Hermann, and American
22 Legion; he benefited youth as a scout leader, and he was a past
23 master of Masonic Lodge No. 226 and a member of Alzahar Temple;
24 committed to conservative values, he organized the Wilson County

1 Republican Party and served as chair for a dozen years; and

2 WHEREAS, A devoted family man, Mr. Koepp married Jewel Helmke
3 on April 10, 1955, and they became the parents of two sons, Dwight
4 and Hiram, and a daughter, Melissa; eventually, he was blessed with
5 nine grandchildren, Eric, Andrew, Lauren, Jessica, Elise,
6 Alexandria, Travis, Parker, and Ryan; sustained by a strong faith,
7 Mr. Koepp was a valued member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, where he
8 served as councilman and as a member of the cemetery committee;
9 following his retirement, he enjoyed spending time with friends and
10 relatives, working cattle on his ranch, fishing, hunting, and
11 pursuing his great passion, taking care of the land; and

12 WHEREAS, Junior Koepp gave freely of his time and expertise
13 to better his community, and his selfless example of public service
14 and civic engagement remains a source of inspiration to all who were
15 privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
17 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
18 Ewald Edward Koepp Jr. and extend sincere condolences to his family
19 and friends; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
22 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Junior
23 Koepp.