

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Lee Ehmke announced his retirement as president and
2 CEO of the Houston Zoo in September 2024, after nearly a decade of
3 dedicated service to that institution; and

4 WHEREAS, Hired in 2015, Mr. Ehmke has led the Houston Zoo in
5 becoming a premier wildlife conservation organization; his
6 accomplishments include completing the zoo's centennial campaign
7 and the first phase of its master plan, achieving a perfect
8 inspection by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, and
9 establishing a variety of unique exhibits; under his guidance, the
10 zoo has increased the reach and effectiveness of its wildlife
11 conservation efforts and created thousands of jobs in the Greater
12 Houston area; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Ehmke previously served as director and CEO of
14 the Minnesota Zoo and as president of the World Association of Zoos
15 and Aquariums, and he worked for the Wildlife Conservation Society
16 at the Bronx Zoo for 12 years; in recognition of his achievements,
17 he received the Heini Hediger Award from WAZA, and he was named one
18 of the Most Admired CEOs by the *Houston Business Journal* in 2023;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Lee Ehmke has made significant contributions to
21 advancing the mission of the Houston Zoo, and he may reflect with
22 pride on a career well spent as he embarks on the next exciting
23 chapter of his life; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas

H.R. No. 780

1 Legislature hereby congratulate Lee Ehmke on his retirement as
2 president and CEO of the Houston Zoo and extend to him sincere best
3 wishes for the future; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for Mr. Ehmke as an expression of high regard by the Texas
6 House of Representatives.

Johnson

H.R. No. 780

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 780 was adopted by the House on April 17, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 131, Nays 9, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House