

By: Campbell

S.R. No. 299

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas Masonry Hall of Fame is inducting Mackie
2 Bounds, Kevin Camarata, Dennis Knautz, and Mel Oller on March 20,
3 2025, in a ceremony conducted at the Alamo in San Antonio; and

4 WHEREAS, A towering figure in Texas commercial masonry for
5 more than four decades, Mackie Bounds joined Al Brown Masonry in
6 1980; he went on to shape the industry as a founding member and
7 president of the Central Texas Masonry Contractors Association; in
8 addition, he has served as president of the Texas Construction
9 Association, Mason Contractors Association of America, and Texas
10 Masonry Council; he has been a tireless, visionary advocate for
11 masonry and oversaw the creation of the Masonry Rocks workforce
12 development program, which has introduced thousands of high school
13 students to the trade; and

14 WHEREAS, Kevin Camarata has advanced Texas masonry over the
15 course of four decades; as CEO of Camarata Masonry Systems, he built
16 one of the nation's largest firms, which has redrawn Houston's
17 skyline with such iconic projects as Enron Field and Rice
18 University; he served as president of the board of TMC and authored
19 key bylaws and fostered supplier engagement; recognizing the
20 importance of workforce development, he championed training
21 programs through Construction Career Collaborative; he also guided
22 industry best practices through involvement with MCAA and the
23 Associated Masonry Contractors of Houston; and

24 WHEREAS, A pioneering architect of today's TMC, Dennis Knautz

1 changed the industry's landscape through his steadfast commitment
2 to corporate responsibility; during a career with Acme Brick
3 spanning over four decades, he helped orchestrate the merger of TMC
4 and the Southwest Brick Institute, resulting in a strong funding
5 framework for statewide growth and advocacy; moreover, he has
6 encouraged leadership from major manufacturers, championed masonry
7 ordinances, and guided organizations through challenging times;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Mel Oller has strengthened professional
10 associations through careful financial stewardship and steadfast
11 devotion; he has served twice as TMC president, and he is a former
12 president of the Associated Masonry Contractors of Houston as well;
13 through national ASTM committees, he has been a powerful voice for
14 fair codes; a trained union bricklayer turned estimator, he revived
15 vital cost guides, and he has worked to preserve industry history;
16 in addition, he has mentored and taught countless younger masons;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Generously sharing their time and expertise, these
19 inductees have elevated the masonry construction industry across
20 the Lone Star State, and in so doing, they have inspired others to
21 uphold a tradition of excellence and innovation; now, therefore, be
22 it

23 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 89th Texas Legislature
24 hereby congratulate Mackie Bounds, Kevin Camarata, Dennis Knautz,
25 and Mel Oller on their induction in the Texas Masonry Hall of Fame
26 and extend to them sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it
27 further

S.R. No. 299

1 RESOLVED, That official copies of this resolution be prepared
2 for the inductees as an expression of high regard by the Texas
3 Senate.