



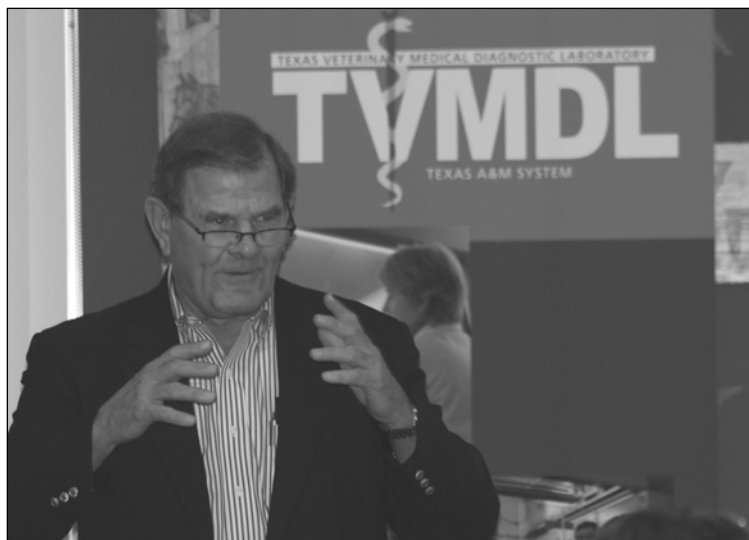
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Rep. Edmund Kuempel's Death a Blow to Agriculture

The Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas (ICA), and all of agriculture, lost a friend November 4, when State Representative Edmund Kuempel of Seguin passed away after suffering cardiac arrest in



On March 10, Rep. Edmund Kuempel was a speaker at the groundbreaking ceremony for new 2,950-square-foot Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) to be built in Gonzales during the next 10 to 12 months.

an Austin convenience store. "Rep. Kuempel, who held the District 44 seat, spoke at several ICA conventions and served as the auctioneer for the Guada-Coma ICA Chapter's Christmas parties on numerous occasions," said Bill Hyman, ICA executive director. "He loved agriculture, never met a stranger and was beloved during his 28 years of service in the Texas Legislature."

"Rep. Kuempel, an optimistic, upbeat gentleman, lived with dignity, faith, integrity and dedication. He will not be forgotten," said Hyman. He said it was not surprising that more than 1,500 mourners attended Rep. Kuempel's funeral Tuesday, November 9, in Seguin at the Faith Lutheran Church and in overflow facilities. The Kuempels were charter members of the

church, and Rep. Kuempel had served on many committees and supported youth activities. Graveside services followed at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin, where nearly 300 persons gathered to pay their respects as he was laid to rest under the shade of a red oak tree.

A graduate of Austin High School, Rep. Kuempel played baseball at Texas Lutheran College in Seguin. After graduating, he joined CMC Steel-Texas, where he worked in sales his entire career. Rep. Kuempel was first elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1983 and, at his death at 67, he was third in seniority in the 150-member House. At various times through redistricting, he represented Comal, Guadalupe, Gonzales, Kendall, and Wilson Counties. As the chairman of the House Committee on Licensing and Administrative Procedures, he had been bracing for a grueling upcoming legislative session with a predicted state budget shortfall that could top \$24 billion.

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Rep. Kuempel is survived by his wife, Roberta (Birdie); daughter, Margaret Brady, and her husband, Walter; son, John Kuempel, and his wife, Michelle; three grandchildren; his father, Henry Kuempel; his brother, Robert Kuempel, and his wife, Jamie; and many other family members. His mother, Ludora "Ludie" Langston Kuempel, passed away in 1995.

“The Texas Secretary of State’s web site lists 10 candidates who have filed for the District 44 seat. Among them is John Kuempel, Rep. Kuempel’s son,” said Hyman. “Gov. Rick Perry has called a special election Monday, Dec. 13, to fill the vacancy.”