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PRESS RELEASE

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Wylie Mayor Has National Impact, Joins Famed Magician on Stage

Wylie, TX, June 4, 2014 – Wylie Mayor Eric Hogue has caused magic to be recognized as art on the national level, an initiative that landed him on stage in Las Vegas with famed magician, David Copperfield.

Hogue fell in love with magic at an early age, growing up in Gravel Ridge, Ark., and created an alter ego, Clinky the Clown, who entertained at kids' parties. The character helped Hogue overcome his fear of public speaking and provided a way to fund his college education. Although not currently performing, Hogue uses magic as a means to teach school children about city government.

Recently, he reconnected with an old friend and mentor, Dallas magician Dal Sanders, who told Hogue he had been campaigning to have magic recognized as a legitimate art, thereby enabling magicians to apply for grants. As Wylie mayor, Hogue had worked with U.S. Congressman Pete Sessions, whom he approached about bringing the topic before Congress. After a series of challenges, including the shut-down of the government, Sessions addressed the 113th Congress on April 28, proclaiming magic to be an art; his remarks were entered into the Congressional Record.

Word of Hogue's accomplishment spread, and, while he and other Wylie officials were in Las Vegas for the International Council of Shopping Centers convention, he received a call

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from Chris Kenner, executive producer for David Copperfield. Hogue and his party were treated to front-row seats at Copperfield's next performance, and the famed magician met with Hogue afterward, offering to be the face of a national campaign regarding magic's new status.

Clinky the Clown lives on in Hogue's published book, "Clinky the Clown and the Secret of Happyville." A sequel may be in the works.

Cutline to accompany photo:

On stage at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas are, from left, Wylie Mayor Eric Hogue, Wylie Economic Development Board Vice President Mitch Herzog, David Copperfield, Wylie EDC Executive Director Sam Satterwhite, and WEDC board member Todd Wintters.

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About Wylie -- Incorporated in 1887, the City of Wylie is located just 24 miles from downtown Dallas in Collin, Dallas and Rockwall counties. Possessing an outstanding school district, a low crime rate, an ISO #1 rating and an expanding business climate, Wylie (population 44,158) is one of the fastest-growing communities in the State of Texas with a 192% increase since 2000.