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NEWS RELEASE

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Wylie Mayor Has National Impact, Joins Famed Magician on Stage
Mayor Uses Magic to Teach Government Concepts to Kids

Wylie, TX, May 28, 2014 – How did Wylie Mayor Eric Hogue cause magic to be recognized by the U.S. Congress as a legitimate art ... and land on stage in Las Vegas with David Copperfield?

It all started in Gravel Ridge, Arkansas, when 10-year-old Hogue fell in love with magic. As he grew up and became more skilled, he created Clinky the Clown and put himself through college performing magic for young people. The alter ego was also a means of overcoming his fear of public speaking.

Hogue and his mentor, Dallas magician Dal Sanders, president of the prestigious, national Society of American Magicians, re-connected randomly a couple of years ago, and Sanders let him know of a challenge he and his fellow magicians were facing – striving to have magic recognized as an art. “The reason was simple,” Sanders said. “Many times magicians apply for grants and get turned down because magic is considered a hobby or a craft.” Often, these grants would have enabled magicians to perform in children’s hospitals and other charitable venues.

Although it was Sanders’ goal to have local and state governments get involved and proclaim a National Magic Week, Hogue’s approach was more ambitious. In his role as Wylie mayor, he had worked with U.S. Congressman Pete Sessions, and he approached Sessions about bringing the topic to the U.S. Congress. After several bumps in the road – including the

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government shutdown – on April 28, 2014, Sessions addressed the 113th Congress, noting that magic is an art and honoring it for entertaining “audiences with the staging of tricks and creating seemingly impossible illusions.” His statement was entered into the Congressional Record.

Hogue was in Las Vegas May 17, attending the annual International Council of Shopping Centers convention, along with other Wylie officials, when he received a call from Chris Kenner, executive producer and magic consultant for renowned magician, David Copperfield. Kenner invited Hogue and his party to be Copperfield’s guests the next night at his show at the MGM Grand. Feeling like a self-proclaimed “kid in a candy store,” Hogue’s evening included not only time on stage as the featured volunteer in Copperfield’s final trick of the night, but also a post-performance private audience with Copperfield, in which he pledged his support in spreading the word that his field had now become an official art form.

Although the mayor has hung up his red nose and big shoes, he continues to use magic in his role as mayor; when he leads youngsters on tours of city hall and the rest of the Wylie Municipal Complex, he does a magic trick or two to explain concepts that might otherwise be less than enthralling to youngsters.

As for Clinky the Clown ... he lives on in Hogue’s published children’s book, “Clinky the Clown and the Secret of Happyville.” It’s rumored that a sequel is in the works ...

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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.