

By: Craddick

H.C.R. No. 19

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Don Sparks, chair of the board for Discovery
2 Operating, has been named the 2022 Top Hand by the Permian Basin
3 Petroleum Association; and

4 WHEREAS, An Amarillo native, Mr. Sparks earned a petroleum
5 engineering degree from The University of Texas at Austin in 1962,
6 and after serving in the U.S. Navy for four years, he embarked on
7 his distinguished career in the petroleum industry; initially, he
8 held a number of engineering and consulting roles with such
9 companies as Bailey, Sipes, Williamson and Runyan, Freeport Oil
10 Company, and Shell Oil Company; and

11 WHEREAS, After settling in Midland, he and his wife,
12 Gwyndolyn, decided to use their savings to launch Discovery
13 Operating in 1973; so began the independent company's many decades
14 of success, and in 2023, Discovery will celebrate its 50th
15 anniversary; in addition, Mr. Sparks joined with C. Ronald Platt to
16 cofound the engineering consulting firm Platt, Sparks & Associates
17 in 1980; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Sparks has been active in myriad professional
19 organizations, including the Society of Petroleum Engineers
20 Permian Basin Chapter, the Independent Petroleum Association of
21 America, and the National Society of Petroleum Engineers; moreover,
22 his family and company have supported such worthwhile causes as
23 High Sky Children's Ranch and The Village at Manor Park; in
24 recognition of his many accomplishments, he was named a UT

1 Distinguished Alumnus and was inducted into the Petroleum Hall of
2 Fame, and he has received an Independent Petroleum Association of
3 America Leadership Award and a Hearst Energy Award for Lifetime
4 Achievement; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Sparks and Mrs. Sparks are the parents of three
6 sons, Jeff, Kevin, and Todd, and they also take great pride in their
7 grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

8 WHEREAS, Through his leadership, vision, and expertise, Don
9 Sparks has earned the lasting respect of his peers in the petroleum
10 industry, and he is truly deserving of this prestigious honor; now,
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas
13 hereby congratulate Don Sparks on his receipt of the 2022 Top Hand
14 award from the Permian Basin Petroleum Association and extend to
15 him sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for Mr. Sparks as an expression of high regard by the Texas
18 House of Representatives and Senate.