

By: Gallego

H.R. No. 40

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The passing of Dr. Paul E. "Red" Pierce of Alpine on
2 March 31, 2004, at the age of 89, has deeply saddened the family and
3 many friends of this distinguished educator; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on December 29, 1914, in Hill, New Mexico, and
5 raised in Fort Stockton, Dr. Pierce attended Schreiner Institute in
6 Kerrville and earned an associate of arts degree while
7 participating in football, basketball, and track; in 1934, he
8 matriculated at Sul Ross State Teachers College, where he played
9 football and basketball and earned his bachelor of science degree
10 in chemistry; he later received his doctorate in education from the
11 University of Houston in 1961; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Pierce launched a noteworthy career as a coach
13 and educator in 1936, when he began teaching chemistry and biology
14 as well as coaching athletics in Fabens; two years later, he moved
15 to Wink, where he also taught and coached; during World War II, Dr.
16 Pierce served with distinction as a gunnery officer in the United
17 States Navy and later became head football coach at Bainbridge
18 Naval Training Station; and

19 WHEREAS, After his military service, Dr. Pierce returned to
20 Sul Ross State Teachers College as head football coach; during his
21 stellar tenure, he led the Lobos to four conference championships
22 and two bowl games, including the Tangerine Bowl in Orlando,
23 Florida; in 1952, he took over as head football coach, head track
24 coach, and athletic director at Sam Houston State Teachers College,

1 where he added to his impressive resume four conference
2 championships in football, five bowl game appearances, and the 1964
3 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) football
4 cochampionship; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Pierce returned again to Sul Ross in 1968 as
6 professor of health and physical education and as chairman of the
7 physical education department; from 1971 to 1975, he demonstrated
8 his coaching brilliance once more as he led the women's volleyball
9 team to the national tournament three times, winning once and
10 placing fifth twice; and

11 WHEREAS, The recipient of numerous well-deserved accolades,
12 Dr. Pierce was named the 1965 Knute Rockne Little All-American
13 Coach of the Year; he was inducted into the Sam Houston State
14 University Hall of Honor in 1978 and the Sul Ross State University
15 Hall of Honor in 1986; and

16 WHEREAS, In addition to his many years of coaching NAIA
17 teams, Dr. Pierce involved himself in the NAIA at all levels,
18 serving as president, as a member of the executive committee, and as
19 a volunteer in several capacities at the district level; most
20 notably, he helped to organize the first NAIA national football
21 championship game as well as the current play-off system; Dr.
22 Pierce also served as a member of the board of directors of the
23 United States Olympic Committee, the executive committee of the
24 Amateur Athletic Union, and the board of directors of the World
25 Student Games; and

26 WHEREAS, After his retirement from education in 1978, this
27 distinguished Texan made significant contributions to his

1 community through his engagement in civic affairs, serving as mayor
2 of Alpine from 1976 to 1984 and from 1986 to 1990; he was also
3 involved with the Rio Grande Council of Governments, where he was
4 board chairman from 1979 to 1980, as well as with the advisory
5 committee for the area agency on aging and with the criminal justice
6 advisory committee; and

7 WHEREAS, A positive influence in the lives of countless
8 individuals, especially those young people whom he served as a
9 guiding force in their formative years, Dr. Pierce leaves behind a
10 legacy of good works that will long endure, and his memory will not
11 soon be forgotten; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
13 Legislature, 4th Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
14 Dr. Paul E. Pierce and extend sincere sympathy to the members of
15 his family: to his son, Paul Edward Pierce II; to his daughter and
16 son-in-law, Laurie and Dr. Thomas Hunt; to his grandsons, Thomas
17 and Jonathan Hunt; and to his other relatives and many friends; and,
18 be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
21 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dr. Paul E.
22 "Red" Pierce.