

By: Martinez Fischer

H.R. No. 554

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Walter A. Rosenblith, institute professor emeritus
2 and former provost of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and
3 an internationally renowned statesman of science, died on May 1,
4 2002, at the age of 88, having pioneered the use of computers and
5 mathematical models in the study of the brain and served as a
6 catalyst in tying the engineering, physical science, and medical
7 communities together during his lifetime; and

8 WHEREAS, Born in Vienna, Austria, on September 21, 1913,
9 Professor Rosenblith was educated in Vienna, Berlin, and Lausanne
10 and received degrees in communications engineering from the
11 University of Bordeaux and the École Supérieure d'Électricité,
12 Paris, before coming to the United States in 1939; when the outbreak
13 of World War II prevented his return to France, he embarked on a
14 successful career as a researcher and physics educator at New York
15 University and the University of California at Los Angeles, where
16 he met and married Judy Olcutt Francis, his beloved wife of six
17 decades; and

18 WHEREAS, Over the course of his remarkable life, he taught at
19 the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, served as a
20 research fellow at Harvard University's Psycho-Acoustic
21 Laboratory, where he became increasingly interested in
22 psychophysics and neurophysiology, and his early work in hearing
23 led him to help found the Eaton Peabody Laboratory for Auditory
24 Physiology; in 1951 Dr. Rosenblith joined the faculty of MIT as an

1 associate professor of communications biophysics, and in the years
2 that followed he helped to secure its status as one of the world's
3 leading scientific research and educational facilities; and

4 WHEREAS, Named to the posts of full professor in 1957 and
5 institute professor in 1975, he was elected by his MIT peers to
6 serve as faculty chair and was chosen to serve as provost for a
7 tenure lasting nearly nine years; he also lectured and taught at
8 institutions in Germany, India, China, Israel, and Brazil and was a
9 pivotal member of the world's scientific community who forged new
10 bonds between nations separated by distance and educational
11 tradition; and

12 WHEREAS, Professor Rosenblith was one of only a handful of
13 scholars throughout history to be elected to all three of America's
14 national academies, the Institute of Medicine, the National Academy
15 of Engineering, and the National Academy of Sciences, the latter of
16 which he served as foreign secretary; a member of the American
17 Academy of Arts and Sciences and a fellow of the World Academy of
18 Arts and Science, Professor Rosenblith was revered across the globe
19 and was named the recipient of the French Legion of Honor, the
20 German Alexander von Humboldt Medal, and the Japanese Okawa Prize
21 for his outstanding contributions to scholarship, education, and
22 international cooperation, and the citizens of the Lone Star State
23 join with the world community in mourning the loss of this
24 extraordinary scientist, engineer, and humanist; now, therefore,
25 be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
27 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Walter A. Rosenblith

1 and extend profound sympathy to the members of his family: to his
2 wife, Judy Rosenblith; to his daughter, Sandra Rosenblith; to his
3 son, Ronald Rosenblith; to his brother, Eric Rosenblith; to his
4 three grandchildren; and to his many other relatives, friends, and
5 admirers; and, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
7 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House
8 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Walter
9 A. Rosenblith.