

By: Raymond

H.R. No. 1302

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, With the passing of Lucien Flournoy of Alice on
2 March 27, 2003, at the age of 83, the citizens of Texas lost a
3 respected business and civic leader and friend; and

4 WHEREAS, Widely known for his success as an independent
5 oilman, Mr. Flournoy was a man just as well known for his
6 philanthropy that especially benefited South Texas; and

7 WHEREAS, Born to life on a farm in Greenwood, Louisiana, soon
8 after his father's untimely passing, he was the youngest of five
9 children and the only son; his mother taught him to run the family's
10 240-acre farm, and taught him practical business skills that stood
11 him in good stead later as he began building his own successful
12 company; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Flournoy studied petroleum engineering at
14 Louisiana State University until his junior year, when he took a
15 letter of recommendation to well-known Corpus Christi oilman, Tom
16 Graham, who gave him a start in the business as a roustabout and
17 rig-builder; the enterprising young man continued to learn the
18 basics as a roughneck and worked his way up, eventually joining
19 Baroid, a leading company in the industry; and

20 WHEREAS, With the advent of World War II, Lucien Flournoy
21 volunteered as a member of the U.S. Army Air Corps, but a broken
22 ankle and rheumatoid arthritis led to an honorable discharge and a
23 return to Texas. In Alice, Mr. Flournoy met his soul mate, Maxine
24 Edmondson, an oilfield pilot and member of the Women's Air Force

1 Service Pilots who had recently been discharged from the U.S. Army
2 Air Corps; married the next year, the couple enjoyed a 56-year union
3 that was blessed with three daughters; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1947, Mr. Flournoy left his position as a
5 production engineer with Arkansas Fuel Oil Company in Alice and
6 started his own business with modest assets and a drilling rig he
7 designed. He was highly respected by employees and colleagues
8 alike for operating a safe and efficient company and for his
9 personal concern for the individuals he employed, a loyalty that
10 was warmly reciprocated. Flournoy Drilling Company was sold in
11 1997, though its founder continued to be involved with Flournoy
12 Production Company; and

13 WHEREAS, Known to many as "Mr. South Texas," Mr. Flournoy was
14 elected to two terms on the Alice City Council, served as mayor from
15 1967 to 1971, and was sought as an advisor by numerous elected
16 officials from the courthouse to the White House. He consistently
17 used his influence for the betterment of his beloved South Texas in
18 the areas of higher education, health care, juvenile justice,
19 highway infrastructure, and many other issues that enriched the
20 daily lives of the people in the region; and

21 WHEREAS, This benevolent man readily shared his good fortune;
22 he was honored by many worthy organizations throughout his life,
23 including Texas A&M University--Kingsville, Corpus Christi
24 Foundation, Youth City, Boys Scouts of America, Alice Chamber of
25 Commerce, National Petroleum Council, Texas Aeronautics
26 Commission, Coastal Bend Kidney Foundation, Council Forum on
27 Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Christus Spohn, Kleberg & Caesar Kleberg

1 Wildlife Institute, South Texas Planned Giving Council of the
2 Coastal Bend Community Foundation, the Women's Shelter of South
3 Texas, American Cancer Society, and Joe B. Evins Jr. Youth Center;
4 in addition, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Texas A&M
5 University--Kingsville; and

6 WHEREAS, In recognition of his many contributions to the
7 State of Texas, a flag will be flown over the Capitol on Mr.
8 Flournoy's birthday, June 13, 2003, in celebration of his life; and

9 WHEREAS, Although he will be deeply missed, Lucien Flournoy
10 will long be remembered for his kindness and generosity and for his
11 sincere dedication to his family, his employees, and his community;
12 now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
14 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Lucien Flournoy and
15 extend heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Maxine Flournoy; to his
16 children, Mary Anne Guthrie, Betty Lou Fields, and Helen Pope; to
17 his 11 grandchildren; and to all those who mourn the passing of this
18 beloved man; and, 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 Lucien
22 Flournoy.