

By: Jackson

S.C.R. No. 24

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Dr. Jesse Vernal Irons, a director of laboratories  
2 for the Texas Department of Health for over 20 years, contributed  
3 significantly to the health of all Texans; the growth and  
4 development of the state public health laboratory system over the  
5 middle part of the 20th century owes much to his ingenuity,  
6 persistence, and courage; and

7           WHEREAS, Dr. Irons joined the Texas Department of Health in  
8 1933, where he served as chief bacteriologist, assistant director,  
9 and associate director before being named director of laboratories  
10 in 1946; and

11           WHEREAS, During his tenure with the department, he devised a  
12 rapid test for diagnosis of smallpox that was used extensively in an  
13 outbreak in 1949, and he guided much of the pioneering work in the  
14 development of specific technology for large-scale production and  
15 distribution of smallpox vaccine; also, under the leadership of  
16 Dr. Irons, the State Public Health Laboratory was licensed for the  
17 purpose of manufacturing vaccines against whooping cough,  
18 diphtheria, typhoid, and smallpox; and

19           WHEREAS, Dr. Irons also served as an adjunct professor of  
20 microbiology at The University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston  
21 and The University of Texas at Austin and authored or coauthored  
22 more than 90 scientific and professional publications during his  
23 career; he was also a member of many health-related organizations,  
24 often serving in leadership positions, and received numerous honors

1 and recognitions for his work; and

2 WHEREAS, It is indeed fitting that Dr. Irons be memorialized  
3 for his achievements as a leader in the field of public health in  
4 Texas and that this recognition be in association with a facility  
5 that so accurately represents his contribution and commitment; now,  
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas  
8 hereby direct the Texas Building and Procurement Commission to name  
9 the new public health laboratory building in Austin for Dr. Jesse  
10 Vernal Irons as a tribute to his dedication and remarkable efforts  
11 toward the health and betterment of all Texans; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward an official  
13 copy of this resolution to the chair and the executive director of  
14 the Texas Building and Procurement Commission.