

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 830

In Memory
of
Lucien Flournoy

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, With the advent of World War II, Lucien Flournoy volunteered as a member of the United States Army Air Corps, but a broken ankle and rheumatoid arthritis led to an honorable discharge and a return to Texas; in Alice, Mr. Flournoy met his soul mate, Maxine Edmondson, an oilfield pilot and member of the Women's Air Force Service Pilots who had recently been discharged from the United States Army Air Corps; married the next year, the couple enjoyed a 56-year union that was blessed with three daughters; and

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

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

WHEREAS, This benevolent man readily shared his good fortune; he was honored by many worthy organizations throughout

his life, including Texas A&M University--Kingsville, Corpus Christi Foundation, Youth City, Boy Scouts of America, Alice Chamber of Commerce, National Petroleum Council, Texas Aeronautics Commission, Coastal Bend Kidney Foundation, Council Forum on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Christus Spohn, Kleberg & Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Institute, South Texas Planned Giving Council of the Coastal Bend Community Foundation, the Women's Shelter of South Texas, American Cancer Society, and Joe B. Evins Jr. Youth Center; in addition, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Texas A&M University--Kingsville; and

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the life of Lucien Flournoy and extend heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Maxine Flournoy; to his children, Mary Anne Guthrie, Betty Lou Fields, and Helen Pope; to his 11 grandchildren; and to all those who mourn the passing of this beloved man; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Lucien Flournoy.

Hinojosa

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 14, 2003, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate