

By: Hughes

H.R. No. 1340

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Mineola lost one of its most beloved
2 residents and admired civic leaders with the passing of Dr. William
3 Howard Wisner on March 13, 2005, at the age of 77; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Grand Saline on March 15, 1927, Howard
5 Wisner was the son of pioneer aviator Bryce C. Wisener and Edna
6 Sally Terry; from his barnstorming father, Dr. Wisner gained a
7 lifelong passion for aviation and all things aeronautical, while
8 his physician grandfather instilled in him a love and respect for
9 the practice of medicine that had a profound impact on countless
10 people; and

11 WHEREAS, After serving as a lieutenant colonel with the 5th
12 Army Air Corps during the Korean War, Dr. Wisner returned to his
13 hometown, where he was the chief flight instructor for the Wisener
14 School of Aeronautics and the author of "Aviation News," a weekly
15 column in the *Mineola Monitor*; and

16 WHEREAS, This skilled aviator flew domestically for Delta
17 Airlines for eight years in the 1950s, still finding time to earn a
18 bachelor's degree from East Texas State Teacher's College in 1954;
19 he went on to graduate from the University of Texas Southwestern
20 Medical School in 1960 and, after completing a two-year internship
21 at Baylor University Medical School, became the chief resident of
22 orthopedic surgery at Crippled Children's Hospital in Birmingham,
23 Alabama; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Wisner was a longtime member of the American

1 Medical Association and the Texas Medical Association; when he
2 returned to Texas from Alabama, he became the first orthopedic
3 surgeon in Garland and played a prominent role in establishing
4 orthopedic surgery at Baylor-Garland Hospital; his thirst for
5 knowledge and his love for the written word compelled him to earn a
6 master's degree in English literature from Southern Methodist
7 University in 1974, and throughout his life he remained an ardent
8 supporter of the arts; and

9 WHEREAS, Although his passions were many, Dr. Wisner took
10 particular pleasure in piloting one of his aircraft, either solo or
11 with his beloved wife, Janice; he logged more than 20,000 flying
12 hours during his lifetime and soared through the airspace above the
13 world's great oceans and traversed six of the seven continents;
14 circumnavigating the globe on four separate occasions, once with
15 his father and three times with Janice, also an accomplished pilot,
16 this generous and thoughtful man drew on his favorite pastime to
17 help others as well, piloting handicapped children to camp; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Wisner was a four-time recipient of the National
19 Aeronautic Association and the Federation Aeronautique
20 Internationale award; he enjoyed membership in the Explorer's Club,
21 the Businessman's Flying Association, the American Bonanza
22 Society, and the Order of the Quiet Birdmen; he provided
23 encouragement and assistance for young people pursuing academic
24 education and careers in aviation, and was a founding member of St.
25 Dunstan's Episcopal Church; and

26 WHEREAS, Though it is impossible to gauge the full effect of a
27 man's life, some individuals leave their unmistakable mark on the

1 world as they move through it, and Dr. Wisner's accomplishments and
2 contributions will continue to resonate in the lives of all who knew
3 him; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
5 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. William Howard
6 Wisner and extend deepest sympathy to his surviving family members:
7 to his wife, Janice Wisner; to his daughters, Marilyn Allen and
8 Carolyn Wisner; to his step-daughter, Teresa Powell; to his
9 grandchildren, Travis Allen and Troy and Brent Powell; and to the
10 many other relatives and friends of this esteemed gentleman; and,
11 be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
14 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dr. William
15 Howard Wisner.