

By: Bonnen

H.R. No. 443

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, James G. Dickson has greatly contributed to the  
2 betterment of his Gulf Coast community, and the cities of Lake  
3 Jackson, Freeport, and Clute and the Brazosport Area Chamber of  
4 Commerce are joining together on February 20, 2007, to honor this  
5 notable Texan; and

6           WHEREAS, Growing up, Gil Dickson loved hunting, fishing, and  
7 horseback riding, and his interest led him to study every inch of  
8 his surroundings; in 1941, while on summer break from college, he  
9 found a job that used his knowledge of the land, making maps of the  
10 town of Lake Jackson for Dow Chemical Company; and

11           WHEREAS, He received invaluable personal direction from  
12 renowned architect Alden Dow and Texas Dow general manager A. P.  
13 Beutel, who inspired him with original ideas on land development;  
14 their plans replaced small checkerboard blocks with large blocks,  
15 curving streets, and prominent green areas that distinguish Lake  
16 Jackson to this day; and

17           WHEREAS, After earning his civil engineering degree from The  
18 University of Texas and proudly serving his country in World War II,  
19 Mr. Dickson returned to his home in Freeport; he worked on a  
20 hurricane levee project before joining former county engineer T. J.  
21 Dunbar in an engineering partnership that added numerous  
22 neighborhoods in Lake Jackson and designed streets, drainage,  
23 utilities, and additions for the City of Freeport, as well as  
24 buildings and facilities for Port Freeport; and

1           WHEREAS, When Hurricane Carla destroyed area levees in 1961,  
2 Dunbar and Dickson Engineering worked with the Velasco Drainage  
3 District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to produce a superior  
4 levee system that remains well-respected among engineers today; and

5           WHEREAS, Mr. Dickson's original ideas led to a host of unique  
6 consulting jobs; he helped to develop an anechoic chamber for the  
7 NASA Johnson Space Center, listened to space chatter with the  
8 National Radio Astronomy Observatory in New Mexico, worked on  
9 projects for the Navajo Nation in Arizona, and assisted Standard  
10 Oil in planning a new town in Everett, Washington; and

11           WHEREAS, In addition to his professional contributions, Mr.  
12 Dickson volunteered his time to the local chamber of commerce,  
13 becoming the organization's youngest president and earning the  
14 title Man of the Year for his many civic endeavors; and

15           WHEREAS, A devoted family man, he shared many years with Ora  
16 Wehring Dickson before her passing; fortunate to find love a second  
17 time, he now shares his life with Beth Reid Dickson; he is blessed  
18 with four children, Jim Dickson, Linda McIrvin, Jeff Reid,  
19 and Shelley Hawkins, four grandchildren, and three  
20 great-grandchildren; and

21           WHEREAS, Although it is impossible to fully gauge the impact  
22 of a man's life, some individuals leave their unmistakable mark on  
23 the world as they move through it, and the contributions Gil Dickson  
24 has made continue to resonate in his community; now, therefore, be  
25 it

26           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
27 Legislature hereby honor James G. "Gil" Dickson for his work in

1   behalf of the Texas Gulf Coast area and extend to him sincere best  
2   wishes for the future; and, be it further

3           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
4   prepared for Mr. Dickson as an expression of high regard by the  
5   Texas House of Representatives.