

By: Hill

H.R. No. 1465

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost an esteemed scientist and  
2 educator with the passing of Dr. Alan G. MacDiarmid on February 7,  
3 2007, at the age of 79; and

4           WHEREAS, A world-renowned expert in the field of conducting  
5 polymers, Dr. MacDiarmid won a Nobel Prize in Chemistry and since  
6 2001 had been affiliated with The University of Texas at Dallas,  
7 where he held the James Von Ehr Distinguished Chair in Science and  
8 Technology; and

9           WHEREAS, Alan MacDiarmid was born and raised in New Zealand  
10 and received his master's degree from the University of New  
11 Zealand; arriving in the United States as a Fulbright scholar in  
12 1950, he earned a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin and then  
13 received a second doctoral degree from Cambridge University in  
14 England in 1955; he was employed for many decades in the Chemistry  
15 Department at the University of Pennsylvania, where much of his  
16 groundbreaking research was conducted; and

17           WHEREAS, Working closely with his colleagues Alan J. Heeger  
18 and Hideki Shirakawa, Dr. MacDiarmid investigated plastic  
19 compounds to study ways to make them conduct electricity; the  
20 team's ultimate success made possible the development of so-called  
21 synthetic metals that have led to revolutionary technological  
22 changes in a wide range of applications, including rechargeable  
23 batteries and light-emitting devices such as mobile phone displays,  
24 and these substances form the basis of ongoing research in the field

1 of nanotechnology; the three scientists were awarded the Nobel  
2 Prize in 2000 in recognition of their important discoveries; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. MacDiarmid became the first scholar to fill the  
4 newly created James Von Ehr chair at UT Dallas; during his time in  
5 that position, his enthusiasm for science and his determination to  
6 work closely with students made him a popular member of the faculty,  
7 and his presence brought worldwide attention to the university; the  
8 author of hundreds of research papers and the holder of 20 patents,  
9 this revered chemist was recognized by many other organizations  
10 during his lifetime, including the National Academy of Sciences and  
11 the National Academy of Engineering; in 2003, he received an  
12 honorary doctorate from Cambridge University; and

13 WHEREAS, A pioneering chemist whose work will continue to  
14 impact technological advancement for many decades to come, Alan  
15 MacDiarmid also devoted himself to encouraging the students who  
16 will become the scientific leaders of tomorrow, and his  
17 accomplishments in the laboratory and the classroom are deserving  
18 of the highest respect; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Alan  
21 G. MacDiarmid and extend deepest condolences to the members of his  
22 family: to his wife, Gayl Gentile; to his children, Heather  
23 McConnell, Dawn Hazelett, Duncan MacDiarmid, and Gail Williams; to  
24 his sister, Alice Palmer; to his brothers, Roderick and Colin  
25 MacDiarmid; to his nine grandchildren; and to his other relatives  
26 and friends; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
2 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Dr. Alan  
3 MacDiarmid.