

By: Ortiz, Jr.

H.R. No. 2531

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, William G. Otton retired from his position as  
2 director of the Art Museum of South Texas in March 2007, after 14  
3 years of service to the Corpus Christi arts community and nearly  
4 three decades in arts administration; and

5           WHEREAS, Born in Honolulu, Bill Otton served as an associate  
6 professor of art at Corpus Christi State University from 1974 until  
7 1980, when he began his career in arts administration as the  
8 director of the Laguna Art Museum in California; in 1988, he began a  
9 two-year tenure as president of the Art Institute of Southern  
10 California in Laguna Beach, and from 1990 to 1993 he served as  
11 president of the Wichita Center for the Arts in Kansas; and

12           WHEREAS, Mr. Otton returned to Corpus Christi in 1993 to take  
13 over as director of the Art Museum of South Texas; over the course  
14 of the next 14 years, he was instrumental in the growth of this  
15 dynamic institution, expanding the museum's collection from 700 art  
16 works to some 2,000 and helping to increase its endowment from  
17 \$45,000 to \$750,000; and

18           WHEREAS, In addition, Mr. Otton led a 10-year effort to  
19 expand the museum's facilities, initiating a \$10 million capital  
20 campaign that resulted in the opening in October 2006 of a  
21 28,000-square-foot addition designed by Mexican architect Ricardo  
22 Legorreta; and

23           WHEREAS, A fine painter in his own right, Bill Otton has been  
24 a champion for the arts in Corpus Christi, and he has contributed

1 greatly to the cultural vitality of the region; now, therefore, be  
2 it

3           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
4 Legislature hereby congratulate William G. Otton on his retirement  
5 as director of the Art Museum of South Texas and extend to him best  
6 wishes for success; and, be it further

7           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
8 prepared for Mr. Otton as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
9 House of Representatives.