

By: Brown of Brazos

H.C.R. No. 117

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas and the field of oceanography
2 lost a renowned educator with the passing of Robert Osborne Reid of
3 College Station on January 23, 2009, at the age of 87; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Connecticut on August 24, 1921, Professor
5 Reid moved with his family to Los Angeles in 1935; during the early
6 years of the war, he participated in an army training program in
7 meteorology at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, and on
8 completing the course in 1943, he was commissioned a second
9 lieutenant in the Army Air Corps; posted to England as a weather
10 officer, he worked on a team whose mission was to predict weather
11 and tides for the Normandy Invasion; after the end of the war in
12 Europe, he served in the Pacific Theater; and

13 WHEREAS, Following his discharge from the military, Bob Reid
14 finished his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering at the
15 University of Southern California and then, in 1946, he joined the
16 first class admitted to a pioneering graduate oceanography program
17 at Scripps; subsequently, he and his fellow alumni would play a
18 significant role in developing other early oceanography programs
19 around the world, based on the Scripps interdisciplinary approach;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, In 1951, Professor Reid was recruited to become a
22 founding faculty member of the new graduate Department of
23 Oceanography and Meteorology at Texas A&M University; over the
24 ensuing years, he served as department chair, conducted important

1 research in coastal oceanography and engineering, and helped to
2 establish an ocean engineering program in the Department of Civil
3 Engineering; in addition, he chaired or co-chaired the advisory
4 committees of about 70 doctoral students and nearly 40 master's
5 students; and

6 WHEREAS, Professor Reid also lent his expertise to a host of
7 extracurricular committees, organizations, and professional
8 journals; among the many accolades conferred on this esteemed
9 scientist and educator were awards for distinguished teaching and
10 research, an honorary doctorate from Old Dominion University, and a
11 medal from the University of Liege, Belgium; in 1983, his former
12 students organized a symposium in his honor, and in 1987, Texas A&M
13 named him distinguished professor emeritus; Professor Reid was a
14 Fellow of the American Geophysical Union and American
15 Meteorological Society and a member of the National Academy of
16 Engineering and National Academy of Sciences; and

17 WHEREAS, Bob Reid exchanged wedding vows with the former
18 Marjorie Ferry in 1947, and the couple became the parents of three
19 sons and three daughters; and

20 WHEREAS, A kind and gentle man who considered himself a Texan
21 by choice, Professor Reid made significant contributions to the
22 advancement of 20th-century oceanography and brought great honor to
23 Texas A&M University and to the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be
24 it

25 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
26 hereby pay tribute to the life of Professor Robert Osborne Reid and
27 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife

1 of 62 years, Marjorie Ferry Reid; to his sons and daughter-in-law,
2 Thomas Reid, Russell Reid, and Robert and Tina Reid; to his
3 daughters, Nancy Reid and Carol McCormick; to his son-in-law,
4 William V. Anderson; to his grandchildren, Kimberlee Spurlin,
5 Wesley, Katherine, and Nicholas Paul Reid, Sarah Naomi McCormick,
6 and Brandon, Nolan Daniel, and Ellie Lynn Anderson; to his
7 great-grandchildren, Garrett Heitman, Aaden and Kason Anderson,
8 and Kaely Brown; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
11 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
12 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
13 Professor Robert Osborne Reid.