

By: Hilderbran

H.R. No. 40

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Residents of Kerrville lost a beloved neighbor and  
2 community leader with the death of Dr. Gene Atkinson on October 18,  
3 2008, at the age of 83; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in Houston on June 20, 1925, Gene Atkinson was  
5 the son of Smith and Nellie Atkinson and enjoyed the companionship  
6 of three sisters, Donna, Ruth, and Beverly; he graduated from Milby  
7 High School and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in physics from  
8 Rice University, followed by master's and doctoral degrees in  
9 education from the University of Houston; and

10           WHEREAS, Dr. Atkinson began his notable career in education  
11 as an associate dean of instruction and professor of physical  
12 science at California State College at Long Beach; returning to his  
13 hometown, he joined the faculty of the University of Houston, where  
14 he served as associate dean of the College of Education, assistant  
15 dean of faculties, and dean of faculties; Dr. Atkinson chaired the  
16 college's Department of Administration and Supervision and  
17 directed the Center for International Education; a mentor to  
18 faculty and students alike, he traveled globally to establish  
19 university programs in France, Brazil, and Mexico, and served on  
20 various panels that research and accredit university programs  
21 throughout Texas; and

22           WHEREAS, After the death of his first wife, Claudene Douglas  
23 Atkinson, Gene Atkinson was fortunate to find love a second time; he  
24 married Vivian Shaw, and with her enjoyed a fulfilling relationship

1 that was further enriched with the love and affection of their  
2 children and grandchildren; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Atkinson was a veteran of World War II and the  
4 Korean War who retired from the U.S. Naval Reserve with the rank of  
5 commander; in retirement, he was elected to several terms as a  
6 trustee with the Ingram Independent School District, took an active  
7 role at the First United Methodist Church of Kerrville, and devoted  
8 some of his leisure time to his interest in amateur radio; and

9 WHEREAS, Gene Atkinson leaves behind a legacy of immense  
10 contributions to his community and beyond, and those who were  
11 fortunate enough to share in the richness of his life will forever  
12 treasure their memories of this esteemed Texan; now, therefore, be  
13 it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
15 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Gene Atkinson and  
16 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife,  
17 Vivian Shaw Atkinson; to his son, Mark Douglas Atkinson, and his  
18 wife, Vicki; to his grandsons, Richard Evans Bowen, Jacob Austin  
19 Bowen, Joshua Earl Bowen, and Samuel Douglas Atkinson; to his  
20 sisters, Ruth Atkinson Vetter and Beverly Atkinson Booher and her  
21 husband, Cletis Booher; to his stepchildren, Glenna Shaw Garcia and  
22 her husband, Edmundo, Suzanne Claire Hamilton and her husband,  
23 Allen, and Stuart Dunlop Shaw and his wife, Kimi; and to his other  
24 relatives and friends; and, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
26 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
27 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Gene

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1 Atkinson.