

By: Hughes

H.R. No. 683

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Longtime conservation advocate George W. Wilkins of
2 Gladewater is retiring from the board of directors of the
3 Upshur-Gregg Soil and Water Conservation District in 2009, drawing
4 to a close nearly four decades of service; and

5 WHEREAS, George Wilkins is a native of East Texas, born in
6 1911 and raised on a farm in Gregg County; after graduating from
7 Gladewater High School in 1930, he went to work as a surveyor for
8 the county engineering department, helping to build 105 miles of
9 hard-surface road, the first in the county; and

10 WHEREAS, From 1936 to 1939, Mr. Wilkins worked for the Texas
11 Highway Department, and in 1939, he began a long and distinguished
12 career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, starting in Galveston
13 and then transferring to Fort Worth in 1950; during his 30 years
14 with the Corps of Engineers, Mr. Wilkins played a vital role in
15 conserving the water resources of Texas, helping to construct 17
16 large reservoirs across the state; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Wilkins retired in 1969 and returned to his
18 homestead in 1970, but he has continued to serve as a dedicated
19 steward of the resources of the Lone Star State; he was elected to
20 the board of the Upshur-Gregg SWCD in 1970 and has served with great
21 distinction there for nearly 39 years; and

22 WHEREAS, This tireless and engaged citizen has represented
23 soil and water conservation districts on other boards and
24 committees; he has helped promote the Southern Regional Forestry

1 Contest in neighboring states, and he played an important part in
2 establishing the Region IV State Wildlife Clinic; and

3 WHEREAS, The exemplary service of Mr. Wilkins has garnered a
4 congratulatory letter from President George W. Bush and a
5 Distinguished Service Award from the East Texas Council of
6 Governments among many other awards and recognitions; he also
7 shares much of the credit for the two Goodyear Awards won by the
8 Upshur-Gregg SWCD in 1995 and 1999; and

9 WHEREAS, George Wilkins has dedicated his life to preserving
10 the soil and water of Texas, first during his career as a builder of
11 reservoirs, and then for nearly four decades more as a citizen
12 advocate with the Upshur-Gregg Soil and Water Conservation
13 District; his long and unwavering commitment to conservation has
14 greatly benefited his fellow Texans, and he may indeed take great
15 pride in his outstanding record of service; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
17 Legislature hereby congratulate George W. Wilkins on the occasion
18 of his retirement from the board of directors of the Upshur-Gregg
19 Soil and Water Conservation District and extend to him sincere best
20 wishes for continued happiness; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for Mr. Wilkins as an expression of high regard by the
23 Texas House of Representatives.