

By: Keffer

H.R. No. 1153

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family, friends, and colleagues are mourning the
2 loss of Lloyd Franklin Pitts of Dallas, who died on March 16, 2009,
3 at the age of 98; and

4 WHEREAS, Frank Pitts was born in Wesson, Mississippi, on
5 October 7, 1910, to Addie Mae Sandifer and John Loyd Pitts; after
6 graduating from Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson in 1930,
7 he attended Northwestern University; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1935, Mr. Pitts married the former Mary Martha
9 McCann, and the couple shared a fulfilling life together for 58
10 years, until Mrs. McCann's death in 1993; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Pitts began his working life with the Nu-Enamel
12 Paint Company of Chicago; from 1934 to 1937, he opened paint stores
13 for the company across Europe, and at the age of 29 he was made
14 president of the international company; his witnessing of the rise
15 of fascism in Italy and Germany during those years instilled in him
16 an intense love of the freedoms of his own nation; and

17 WHEREAS, Returning to the United States, Mr. Pitts became an
18 independent oilman, and he was a leader in the petroleum and natural
19 gas industry for nearly 70 years; he founded the Pitts Oil Company,
20 an oil and gas exploration services firm that continues to this day;
21 for 12 years, he was also the chief executive officer of an
22 international geophysical company; over the course of his
23 remarkable career, he participated in the drilling of more than
24 3,000 wells; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Pitts benefited his professional community
2 through his work as president of the Texas Independent Producers
3 and Royalty Owners Association for two terms and as chair of the
4 Industry Forum of the American Petroleum Institute; he served under
5 every secretary of the Department of Energy since 1977 as a member
6 of the National Petroleum Council, and he was appointed to the
7 Natural Gas Committee of the Independent Petroleum Association of
8 America and to the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission; he was
9 also a dynamic representative of the industry before state and
10 national governmental bodies; and

11 WHEREAS, This outstanding entrepreneur was often honored for
12 his contributions to the petroleum industry; he received the Chief
13 Roughneck Award from the IPAA, the Pioneer of the Year Award from
14 the Texas Railroad Commission, the Legend Award from the Texas
15 Alliance of Energy Producers, the Mr. TIPRO Award, and the John
16 Rogers Award from the Southwestern Legal Foundation, among many
17 others; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Pitts contributed generously to his community as
19 well; he helped found and served as chair of the Dallas Council on
20 World Affairs, earning the council's H. Neil Mallon Award for
21 Distinguished Civic Service; he played a role in the formation of
22 the Dallas Opera, and he served as chair and executive committee
23 member of the Baylor University Medical Foundation and as a member
24 of the board of the Maguire Energy Institute at Southern Methodist
25 University; moreover, he endowed four SMU presidential
26 scholarships, a scholars fund, and a lecture series on oil and gas;
27 in addition, Mr. Pitts was president of the Park Cities Rotary Club,

1 a member of the Dallas Citizens Council, and a longtime member and
2 deacon of Park Cities Baptist Church; and

3 WHEREAS, Throughout a full and productive life, Frank Pitts
4 dedicated himself to his family, his career, and his community, and
5 the loved ones he leaves behind can take great pride in his
6 remarkable legacy; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
8 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Lloyd Franklin Pitts
9 and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his
10 daughter, Linda, and her husband, William A. Custard; to his
11 grandchildren, W. Allen Custard III and his wife, Mason, Martha E.
12 Custard, Laura Custard Hurt and her husband, G. Ellison Hurt III; to
13 his brother, Troy N. Pitts; to his sister-in-law, Ida M. Olson; to
14 his cousin, Dr. Charles L. Lloyd, Jr., and his wife, Sandy; to his
15 four great-grandchildren; and to his other relatives and friends;
16 and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
19 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in honor of Lloyd
20 Franklin Pitts.