

By: Eissler

H.R. No. 1353

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Hughes Christensen Company is commemorating the
2 100th anniversary of its origins in 2009, making this a fitting
3 occasion to celebrate its important role in the history of the
4 petroleum industry and of Texas; and

5 WHEREAS, Founder Howard Robard Hughes, Sr., came to Texas
6 from Iowa in 1902, seeking his fortune in the booming Texas
7 oilfields; in 1906, he invented the two-cone rotary drill bit,
8 which made it easier to drill through rock; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Hughes patented the revolutionary invention in
10 1909 and cofounded the Sharp-Hughes Tool Company, which later
11 became the Hughes Tool Company; two Hughes engineers created the
12 tri-cone bit in 1933, and it quickly became the most widely used
13 drill bit in the oil industry; when Mr. Hughes died, his son, Howard
14 Hughes, Jr., inherited the company, along with the fortune that
15 would make him one of the richest and most famous men of his era;
16 though Howard Hughes, Jr., had little involvement in the company,
17 it would continue to advance research and development of oil
18 drilling technology for the next 50 years; and

19 WHEREAS, In the 1940s, Frank and George Christensen pioneered
20 the diamond drill bit, and together they founded Christensen
21 Diamond Products; like Hughes Tool, Christensen was an important
22 innovator in the field, introducing the first polycrystalline
23 diamond compact (PDC) drill bit in 1972; and

24 WHEREAS, In the early 1990s, Hughes Tool, now part of Baker

1 Hughes, merged with Christensen to become Hughes Christensen, and
2 this dynamic and innovative company is a respected leader in the
3 design and manufacture of diamond and tri-cone drilling technology
4 today; and

5 WHEREAS, Now headquartered in The Woodlands under the
6 leadership of its president, Gary Rich, Hughes Christensen is both
7 one of the largest employers in its community and a company of
8 global reach, boasting a rich history and the promise of a bright
9 future; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
11 Legislature hereby congratulate the Hughes Christensen Company on
12 its 100th anniversary and extend to its employees sincere best
13 wishes for continued success; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for Hughes Christensen as an expression of high regard by
16 the Texas House of Representatives.