

By: Craddick

H.R. No. 321

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The distinguished career of a respected oilman is  
2 being honored as William Donald Kleine is posthumously inducted  
3 into the Petroleum Hall of Fame on April 14, 2011; and

4           WHEREAS, The Petroleum Hall of Fame, which is based at the  
5 Permian Basin Petroleum Museum in Midland, recognizes individuals  
6 who have made outstanding contributions to the development of the  
7 petroleum industry or who have inspired others through their  
8 achievements, service, or strength of character; and

9           WHEREAS, Bill Kleine was born in Slater, Missouri, on July 4,  
10 1928; before making a name for himself in the petroleum industry, he  
11 was a member of the Missouri Valley College football team, famous  
12 for its 41-game winning streak; he also played for the school's  
13 basketball team and was recognized in *Ripley's Believe It or Not!*  
14 for playing a football game in one state at night after having  
15 played a basketball game in a different state that same afternoon;  
16 and

17           WHEREAS, Basketball proved to be his entry into the oil  
18 business; after graduating cum laude with a bachelor's degree in  
19 business administration, he was hired by Phillips 66 to play for its  
20 famous company basketball team, the 66ers; after a few years of  
21 traveling the country with the team, he settled in Midland as a  
22 Phillips 66 purchasing agent; in 1956, he took a job with the  
23 Western Oil Transportation Company; this small trucking company  
24 evolved into the Permian Corporation, a crude oil marketing firm;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Kleine rose to the post of vice president of  
3 marketing with Permian as the 22-truck operation grew into a large  
4 enterprise with 600 trucks and 6,000 miles of pipelines; the  
5 company became the first Midland-based firm to be listed on the New  
6 York Stock Exchange; Mr. Kleine retired as president and chief  
7 executive officer in 1989; by that time, Permian employed 2,000  
8 people and was the largest crude oil marketing firm in the United  
9 States; and

10 WHEREAS, Known for his humility, Mr. Kleine was always  
11 helpful to those on their way up in the industry and freely shared  
12 his expertise and wisdom with his peers; he was a central force in  
13 the Midland oil business for more than five decades and a leading  
14 figure in the community, serving on the boards of many civic,  
15 church, and charitable organizations, such as the High Sky  
16 Children's Ranch, the Cerebral Palsy Board, and the Midland  
17 Memorial Foundation; and

18 WHEREAS, The Midland community lost an esteemed business and  
19 civic leader when Bill Kleine passed away on June 25, 2010, at the  
20 age of 81; through his leadership, he distinguished himself as a  
21 successful and influential figure in an industry that is such a  
22 vital part of the Texas economy; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
24 Legislature hereby honor the memory of William Donald Kleine on the  
25 occasion of his induction into the Petroleum Hall of Fame and pay  
26 tribute to his many admirable contributions; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

H.R. No. 321

1 prepared for Mr. Kleine's family as an expression of high regard by  
2 the Texas House of Representatives.