

By: Craddick

H.R. No. 366

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The distinguished career of a respected engineer and
2 businessman is being honored as Sam Gavin Gibbs of Midland is
3 inducted 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, Born in Lufkin on June 16, 1932, Sam Gibbs began his
10 career in 1954 when he joined Shell Oil after graduating from Texas
11 A&M University with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering;
12 after spending two years in the United States Army, he returned to
13 Shell but soon went back to A&M to earn a master's degree in
14 mathematics; he then took a position as a researcher at Shell
15 Development Company in Houston, simultaneously working on his Ph.D.
16 in mechanical engineering at Rice University, which he received in
17 1968; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Gibbs became an expert in sucker rod pumping
19 technology, the method that is used on approximately four-fifths of
20 the world's oil wells; he developed mathematical wave equations and
21 models for designing pumping systems while also serving Shell as a
22 research associate, head of drilling research, and chief engineer
23 of the Blue Dolphin Pipeline; and

24 WHEREAS, In 1969, Mr. Gibbs moved to Midland and started his

1 own company, Nabla Corporation, the first technical services firm
2 to commercialize mathematical modeling methods for diagnosing rod
3 pumping systems; the company also diversified into hydraulic and
4 submersible pumping systems before Mr. Gibbs sold it in 1997 and
5 retired from the oil business; and

6 WHEREAS, A firm believer in giving back to the industry, this
7 knowledgeable professional is the author of more than two dozen
8 technical papers and is currently writing a textbook; he holds six
9 patents and is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi and Tau Beta Pi
10 scholastic honor societies and the Society of Petroleum Engineers;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Widely admired by his peers, Mr. Gibbs is a
13 recipient of the J. C. Slonneger Award and Duane A. Crawford Service
14 Award and was honored as a distinguished lecturer by the Permian
15 Basin Hall of Fame; in addition, he was given the Production
16 Engineering Award by the Society of Petroleum Engineers
17 International and has been nominated for that organization's
18 Anthony F. Lucas Gold Medal; and

19 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, he has enjoyed the love and
20 support of his wife, Margie, his daughters, Sue Ann Gibbs Nelson and
21 Pamela Kay Gibbs Crockett, and his four grandchildren; and

22 WHEREAS, Through his inspired innovation, Sam Gibbs has
23 distinguished himself as a successful and influential figure in an
24 industry that is such a vital part of the Texas economy; now,
25 therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
27 Legislature hereby congratulate Sam Gavin Gibbs on his induction

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1 into the Petroleum Hall of Fame and commend him for his many
2 noteworthy contributions; and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
4 prepared for Mr. Gibbs as an expression of high regard by the Texas
5 House of Representatives.