

By: Hardcastle

H.R. No. 965

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texas aviation pioneer and entrepreneur Henry
2 Leland Snow of Wichita Falls passed away on February 20, 2011, at
3 the age of 80; and

4 WHEREAS, Leland Snow was born in Brownsville on May 31, 1930,
5 to Henry Evans Snow and Carrie Beth Sewell Snow; raised in the Rio
6 Grande Valley, he earned a degree in aeronautical engineering at
7 Texas A&M University in 1952; and

8 WHEREAS, Widely regarded as the creator of the modern
9 crop-dusting airplane, Mr. Snow designed and constructed his first
10 agricultural aircraft, the S-1, in 1951; he flew the plane himself
11 on crop-dusting jobs in Texas and Nicaragua before founding Snow
12 Aeronautical in 1955; a few years later, he opened a factory in
13 Olney, where he manufactured the next generation of crop dusters,
14 the S-2A and S-2B; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Snow sold his company to Rockwell-Standard in
16 1965, but stayed on as vice president of the Aero Commander division
17 and helped to design the Thrush aircraft; he left Rockwell in 1972
18 to start Air Tractor, eventually opening a new factory in Olney;
19 today, Air Tractors are used the world over for crop dusting,
20 firefighting, cleaning up oil spills, and more; president of the
21 company until his death, Mr. Snow also remained active in
22 engineering; and

23 WHEREAS, This esteemed businessman received many awards and
24 recognitions over the course of his illustrious career; he was

1 inducted into the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame in 2000, and in 2005,
2 Air Tractor earned the International Torch Award for Marketplace
3 Ethics from the Better Business Bureau; he contributed generously
4 to the National Agricultural Aviation Association, in particular to
5 its pilot safety and drift minimization programs; and

6 WHEREAS, Among Mr. Snow's many interests were classical
7 music, playing the piano, and running; he supported the Wichita
8 Falls Symphony Orchestra, as well as local arts, and he
9 participated in three marathons, including the famous New York City
10 Marathon, after the age of 65; and

11 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Mr. Snow enjoyed the love
12 and support of his wife, the former Nancy Bacon, whom he married in
13 1946; together they were blessed with two daughters, Kara and
14 Kristin, as well as two grandchildren, Brennan and Elisabeth; and

15 WHEREAS, Leland Snow will long be remembered, not only for
16 his remarkable innovations in aviation and his contributions to his
17 community, but also for the kindness, determination, and charity
18 with which he lived his life; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Henry Leland Snow
21 and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his
22 wife, Nancy Snow; to his daughters, Kara East and Kristin Edwards
23 and her husband, Trevor; to his grandchildren, Brennan Edwards and
24 Elisabeth East; to his sister, Marihelen Snow; to his
25 brother-in-law, John Bacon, and his wife, Patricia; to his nephews,
26 Conan McCarty, Kevin McCarty and his wife, Margaret, John Charles
27 Bacon, Jr., and his wife, Paige, and John Franklin Bacon; and to his

1 other relatives and friends; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
4 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Leland
5 Snow.