

By: Branch

H.R. No. 1461

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost a respected diplomat and a
2 champion of higher education with the death of Roy Richard
3 Rubottom, Jr., who passed away on December 6, 2010, at the age of
4 98; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of the Lone Star State, Richard Rubottom
6 was born in Brownwood on February 13, 1912; he was awarded a
7 scholarship to Southern Methodist University, and during his years
8 at the school, he served as president of his class and editor of the
9 newspaper; after earning his bachelor's and master's degrees, he
10 went on to study Latin American relations at The University of Texas
11 at Austin, where he was assistant dean of students; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Rubottom joined the Navy in 1941 and served in
13 naval intelligence in Mexico and Paraguay during World War II; he
14 attained the rank of commander, and following his five years with
15 the military, he became vice president of a bank in Corsicana; and

16 WHEREAS, Soon after, his interest in foreign affairs led him
17 to enter the diplomatic service; through the years, he helped to
18 establish the Organization of American States in Bogota, Colombia,
19 served as officer in charge of Mexican affairs in Washington, D.C.,
20 and directed the Office of Middle American Affairs; he worked with
21 the U.S. Embassy in Madrid and was appointed deputy assistant
22 secretary of state for inter-American affairs and assistant
23 secretary of state; and

24 WHEREAS, During the 1950s, Mr. Rubottom was instrumental in

1 shaping American foreign policy toward Latin America, particularly
2 Cuba; a dedicated proponent of U.S. interests in a shifting and
3 volatile climate, he believed that important influence was
4 exercised through education, economic ties, and cooperative
5 endeavors that brought mutual benefit to nations; and

6 WHEREAS, Named ambassador to Argentina in 1960, Mr. Rubottom
7 attained the rank of career minister before concluding his foreign
8 service as State Department adviser to the U.S. Naval War College in
9 Newport, Rhode Island; in 1964, he began a second career in higher
10 education and joined the administration at SMU, working as
11 administrative vice president and vice president for planning; and

12 WHEREAS, Following two years of service as president of the
13 University of the Americas in Puebla, Mexico, he returned to SMU,
14 where he was a political science professor and
15 scholar-in-residence; in 1975, he was named professor emeritus; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Rubottom remained active in the Dallas community
17 after his retirement; in addition to directing the Dallas Office of
18 International Affairs, he was a valued volunteer with the Boy
19 Scouts of America for many years; and

20 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, he enjoyed the support of a
21 loving family, including his wife, Billy Ruth, with whom he shared
22 69 years of marriage, and his children, Eleanor, Frank, and John;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Richard Rubottom distinguished himself through his
25 leadership in foreign affairs and his contributions to the field of
26 education, and he leaves behind an outstanding record of service
27 that will not soon be forgotten; now, therefore, be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
2 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Roy Richard Rubottom,
3 Jr., and extend deepest sympathy to the members of his family: to
4 his daughter, Eleanor Odden, and her husband, Allan; to his sons,
5 Frank Rubottom and John Rubottom and his wife, Angie; to his
6 grandchildren, Sarina, Robert, Jay, and Taylor; to his
7 great-grandson, Micah; and to his other relatives and friends; and,
8 be it further

9 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
10 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
11 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Richard
12 Rubottom.