

By: Woolley

H.R. No. 1655

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Family and friends were deeply saddened by the loss  
2 of business and community leader William Arnold McMinn, Jr., of  
3 Houston, who passed away on April 11, 2011, at the age of 80; and

4           WHEREAS, Born on July 29, 1930, in Clarksdale, Mississippi,  
5 to William and Mary McMinn, Bill McMinn graduated from high school  
6 in 1948 and earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Vanderbilt  
7 University in 1952; he began his career as a research chemist at  
8 Monsanto Chemical in Texas City that same year and went on to hold  
9 executive positions at a number of firms in the petrochemical  
10 industry, living in Massachusetts, Mississippi, New York, and  
11 Pennsylvania before returning to Texas; and

12           WHEREAS, Mr. McMinn joined the Sterling Group in Houston in  
13 1986, became president of Cain Chemical the following year, and  
14 subsequently served as chair of the Arcadian Corporation; in 1997,  
15 he assumed the role of chair of Texas Petrochemicals, and he led  
16 that company for six years; he also served on several boards in the  
17 chemical, nanotechnology, and biotechnology industries and was a  
18 senior founding principal of the Legacy Equity Group; and

19           WHEREAS, A recipient of the Petrochemical Heritage Award in  
20 2004 for his contributions to the field, Mr. McMinn invested in the  
21 biotechnology, nanotechnology, biopharmaceutical, and private  
22 space industries; he spent nearly 40 years in cattle ranching,  
23 owning property in Brenham, Johnson City, McDade, and Gustine, and  
24 he participated in the 1989 Great Montana Centennial Cattle Drive;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Actively engaged in the Texas political process, Mr.  
3 McMinn chaired the board of the Texas Public Policy Foundation and  
4 served on the board of the Texas Institute for Education Reform and  
5 the Associated Republicans of Texas, which he helped to found;  
6 moreover, he was appointed by Governor Rick Perry in 2005 to the  
7 Texas Tax Reform Commission; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. McMinn was a member of the Vanderbilt University  
9 Board of Trustees for eight years and a lifetime member of the  
10 school's College Cabinet and Chancellor's Council; he received a  
11 Distinguished Alumni award from Vanderbilt in 1998 and an honorary  
12 doctorate from Abilene Christian University in 2001; in addition,  
13 he was a member of the Brookwood Community Advisory Board for more  
14 than two decades; and

15 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Mr. McMinn enjoyed the love  
16 and support of his wife, Nancy, whom he met in Nashville while  
17 attending college; the couple shared more than 55 years together  
18 and welcomed four treasured children, William, Mary, Nancy, and  
19 Patricia, as well as five grandchildren, before her passing in  
20 2007; Mr. and Mrs. McMinn also endowed several university honorary  
21 scholarships and chairs; and

22 WHEREAS, A successful business executive and an engaged  
23 citizen, Bill McMinn drew people to him with his warmth, good humor,  
24 and enthusiasm; with interests ranging from history to astronomy to  
25 physics, he never quit learning and embraced life to the fullest,  
26 making countless friends along the way; now, therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas

1 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of William Arnold  
2 McMinn, Jr., and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his  
3 family: to his children, William A. McMinn III and his wife, Marie,  
4 Mary M. Ogden, Nancy M. Beasley and her husband, Stephen, and  
5 Patricia C. McMinn; to his grandchildren, Michael McMinn, Christina  
6 Snyder and her husband, Dyrice, Tommy Ogden and his wife,  
7 Marguerite, Brad Beasley, and Kate Beasley; to his sisters,  
8 Caroline Murphy and Sister Mary Magdalen; to his four  
9 great-grandchildren; and to his other relatives and friends; and,  
10 be it further

11         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
12 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
13 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Bill  
14 McMinn.