

By: Bohac

H.R. No. 2147

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The loss of William Arnold McMinn, Jr., of  
2 Brookshire, who passed away on April 11, 2011, at the age of 80, is  
3 deeply felt by his family and by the numerous friends he made  
4 through the years, as well as by the many people in Texas and beyond  
5 whose lives he forever enriched; and

6           WHEREAS, Born to William and Mary McMinn in Clarksdale,  
7 Mississippi, on July 29, 1930, Bill McMinn graduated from  
8 Clarksdale High School in 1948 and went on to earn a bachelor's  
9 degree in chemistry from Vanderbilt University in 1952; following  
10 college, he was hired as a research chemist by Monsanto Chemical in  
11 Texas City; Mr. McMinn subsequently worked as an executive with a  
12 number of companies before joining the Sterling Group in 1986;  
13 during his tenure with that investment firm, he had a role in some  
14 of its most successful acquisitions, serving as president of Cain  
15 Chemical and as chair of both Arcadian Corporation and Texas  
16 Petrochemicals; he also served on the board of directors for a  
17 number of other companies, and he invested in technology start-ups  
18 in such cutting-edge fields as biotechnology, nanotechnology,  
19 biopharmaceuticals, and the private space industry; and

20           WHEREAS, Setting an outstanding example of civic engagement,  
21 Mr. McMinn was an active and valued member of the Republican Party;  
22 he sat on the board of directors for the Associated Republicans of  
23 Texas and served as the group's state finance chair during the 2008  
24 election cycle; in addition, he was a past president of the Texas

1 Public Policy Foundation Board of Directors, and he provided  
2 invaluable encouragement and support to a number of state and  
3 national leaders in their political campaigns; and

4 WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Mr. McMinn remained a staunch  
5 benefactor of Vanderbilt University; he served on its board of  
6 trust from 1993 to 2001 and held lifetime membership in the College  
7 Cabinet and the Chancellor's Council; his philanthropy also  
8 encompassed the endowing of several university chairs and  
9 scholarships and the support of many charitable causes; among the  
10 latter was The Brookwood Community, a residential facility for  
11 adults with disabilities, on whose advisory board he served  
12 devotedly for more than 20 years; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1998, Vanderbilt University recognized  
14 Mr. McMinn with its Distinguished Alumnus Award, and three years  
15 later, Abilene Christian University conferred on him an honorary  
16 doctorate; and

17 WHEREAS, This esteemed Texan approached all his endeavors  
18 with enormous zest and energy; known for his wit and inquisitive  
19 mind, he cultivated an interest in history, physics, and astronomy,  
20 and for nearly 40 years he maintained an involvement in the ranching  
21 industry, owning ranches in Brenham, Johnson City, McDade, and  
22 Gustine; he flew in an F-16 fighter jet, participated in the Great  
23 Montana Centennial Cattle Drive of 1989, and went back to college in  
24 his 70s; and

25 WHEREAS, Bill McMinn met his wife, Nancy, while he was in  
26 college, and they were joined in matrimony on August 30, 1951; the  
27 couple enjoyed a rewarding marriage of 55 years, until her passing

1 in 2007; they were blessed with four children, William, Mary,  
2 Nancy, and Patricia, as well as five grandchildren and four  
3 great-grandchildren; and

4 WHEREAS, While the death of William Arnold McMinn, Jr.,  
5 brings immeasurable sorrow to his family and friends, he leaves  
6 behind a legacy of exceptional achievement that will long be  
7 treasured by all who held him dear; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
9 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of William Arnold  
10 McMinn, Jr., and extend sincere condolences to the members of his  
11 family: to his son and daughter-in-law, William McMinn III and  
12 Marie McMinn; to his daughters and son-in-law, Nancy and Stephen  
13 Beasley, Mary Ogden, and Patricia McMinn; to his sisters, Caroline  
14 Murphy and Sister Mary Magdalen; to his grandchildren, Michael  
15 McMinn, Christina Snyder and her husband, Dyric, Tommy Ogden and  
16 his wife, Marguerite, Brad Beasley, and Kate Beasley; to his  
17 great-grandchildren; and to his other relatives and friends; and,  
18 be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
20 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
21 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of William  
22 McMinn, Jr.