

By: Chisum

H.R. No. 2821

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Texas cattle industry lost an important leader
2 with the passing of Dr. Richard Peterson McDonald of Amarillo on
3 October 29, 2010, at the age of 66; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on February 21, 1944, in Clifton to Roy and
5 Werner McDonald, Richard McDonald grew up in San Benito and served
6 as president of his high school's FFA program for two years and as
7 chair of the state 4-H Council; he graduated from Texas A&M
8 University in 1966 with a bachelor's degree in animal science and
9 then earned a master's degree and a doctorate in nutrition, animal
10 breeding, and statistics from Louisiana State University; and

11 WHEREAS, After completing his education, Dr. McDonald served
12 as an area livestock specialist in Dallas for the Texas
13 Agricultural Extension Service, and in 1974, he joined the staff of
14 the Texas Cattle Feeders Association in Amarillo; he actively
15 represented the interests of the TCFA before the Texas Legislature
16 and regulatory agencies, developing a reputation as a credible,
17 reliable, and trustworthy advocate; in 1988, he became president
18 and CEO of the association and held those posts for nearly two
19 decades; and

20 WHEREAS, Known for his ability to build consensus among TCFA
21 members and to solve problems by collaborating with others,
22 Dr. McDonald helped transform the cattle industry into a vital
23 component of United States agriculture and the national economy;
24 today, TCFA members in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico sell some

1 seven million head of cattle annually and produce approximately 30
2 percent of the nation's fed beef; and

3 WHEREAS, Dr. McDonald was a founding member of the Texas
4 Agriculture Council and served as its chair for several years; he
5 received many honors for his work, including the first Industry
6 Leadership Award from the Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame, the Blue and
7 Gold Award from Texas FFA, and awards from the Texas County
8 Agricultural Agents Association, Texas A&M University, and Texas
9 Tech University; and

10 WHEREAS, Following his retirement in 2006, Dr. McDonald
11 served as a consultant with the McCormick Company; he was appointed
12 by Governor Rick Perry to the Canadian River Compact Commission in
13 2009, and he held a seat on the West Texas A&M University Foundation
14 Board; in addition, he gave back to his community through his work
15 with the Boy Scouts, and he was an active member of First
16 Presbyterian Church in Amarillo; and

17 WHEREAS, The Richard McDonald Leadership Institute has been
18 established to honor Dr. McDonald's legacy in the cattle industry;
19 administered through the National Cattlemen's Beef Association,
20 the program will offer leadership development and training for
21 young people involved with cattle organizations across the United
22 States; and

23 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Dr. McDonald was supported
24 by his loving wife, Sharon; the couple enjoyed more than 30 years
25 together and raised four children, Lyle, Lanny, Kelly, and Lori;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, While the death of Dr. McDonald has brought

1 immeasurable sorrow to his family and friends, he leaves behind a
2 record of exceptional achievement that will long be remembered by
3 all who were privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
5 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Richard Peterson
6 McDonald and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family:
7 to his wife, Sharon; to his sons, Lanny McDonald and his wife,
8 Deanna, and Lyle McDonald and his wife, Myra; to his daughter, Lori
9 Price, and her husband, Danny; to his daughter-in-law, Kerri
10 McDonald; to his brothers, Roy McDonald and his wife, Rhea, and
11 Robert McDonald and his wife, Darleen; to his sister-in-law, Sandra
12 Woodward, and her husband, Tom; to his 12 grandchildren; and to his
13 other relatives and friends; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
16 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of
17 Dr. McDonald.