

By: Eiland

H.C.R. No. 107

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, George P. Mitchell is being honored with a
2 History-Making Texan Award by the Texas State History Museum
3 Foundation on February 27, 2013, in tribute to his exemplary
4 contributions to the oil and gas industry; and

5 WHEREAS, The History-Making Texan Award is given annually to
6 those Texans who have made an extraordinary impact on the state and
7 nation; among the recipients of this accolade are former U.S.
8 presidents and state governors, as well as renowned business
9 leaders, scientists, entertainers, and media figures; and

10 WHEREAS, A native of Galveston, Mr. Mitchell graduated from
11 Texas A&M University, earning a degree in petroleum engineering
12 with an emphasis in geology; he served his country as a captain in
13 the Army Corps of Engineers during World War II, after which he
14 joined a newly formed oil exploration firm as an engineering and
15 geology consultant; later, he became a partner in the firm, before
16 he took over the role of president in 1959; and

17 WHEREAS, Under his forward-thinking leadership, the business
18 evolved into Mitchell Energy & Development Corporation, one of the
19 largest independent oil and gas producers in the nation; the
20 company merged with Devon Energy Corporation in 2002; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Mitchell was also responsible for one of the
22 most significant breakthroughs in the energy industry when he and
23 his staff discovered a way of extracting natural gas from shale
24 beds; this new method, now known as "fracking," created a massive

1 expansion in domestic natural gas supplies; and

2 WHEREAS, This dynamic Texan's drive to innovate led to
3 success in other fields as well; in 1974, his venture into real
4 estate culminated in a 25,000-acre master-planned city north of
5 Houston, The Woodlands, considered an outstanding example of
6 environmentally conscious development; today, the community boasts
7 a population of 100,000 and an almost unprecedented amount of green
8 space in the form of greenbelts and forest preserves; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Mitchell and his wife, the late Cynthia Woods
10 Mitchell, shared a commitment to making a positive difference in
11 the world, and together they established the Cynthia & George
12 Mitchell Foundation, which has pledged more than \$400 million in
13 support of education, the arts, and scientific research on clean
14 energy and sustainability; they also dedicated themselves to
15 restoring the historic Strand District in Mr. Mitchell's hometown
16 of Galveston and played a key role in reviving the city's Mardi Gras
17 celebration, which now draws some 500,000 revelers annually; and

18 WHEREAS, A visionary entrepreneur in energy and land
19 development, George Mitchell may reflect with great pride on his
20 record of achievement as he joins an elite group of distinguished
21 Texans who have received this prestigious award; now, therefore, be
22 it

23 RESOLVED, That the 83rd Legislature of the State of Texas
24 hereby congratulate George P. Mitchell on his receipt of a
25 History-Making Texan Award from the Texas State History Museum
26 Foundation and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future;
27 and, be it further

1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for Mr. Mitchell as an expression of high regard by the
3 Texas House of Representatives and Senate.