

By: Raney

H.R. No. 590

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Texas A&M alumnus Dr. Steve O'Neal was inducted into
2 the American Football Kicking Hall of Fame on January 17, 2013; and

3 WHEREAS, The American Football Kicking Hall of Fame honors
4 professional, college, and high school players who have shown
5 remarkable accomplishments as placekickers or punters in American
6 football; and

7 WHEREAS, Born on February 4, 1946, in Hearne, Steve O'Neal
8 attended high school in that city before enrolling at Texas A&M
9 University, where for three consecutive years he lettered in
10 football and track; in 1967, he was the leading punter in the
11 Southwest Conference and earned All-Conference honors; the
12 following year, he was again selected for the All-SWC team and
13 garnered national recognition for his outstanding performance by
14 being named an All-American; moreover, his memorable play with the
15 Aggies was later honored with his selection as the punter for the
16 university's 1960s All-Decade Team; and

17 WHEREAS, Drafted by the New York Jets in 1969, he was playing
18 in just his second professional game when he lined up for a kick
19 while pinned deep in his own end zone; he launched the ball and
20 watched it travel 75 yards in the air before it hit the turf and
21 rolled, ultimately ending up on the opponent's one-yard line; the
22 kick broke the old NFL record set in 1931, and the total distance of
23 98 yards still stands as the longest punt in pro football history;
24 and

1 WHEREAS, Over the course of his five-year professional
2 career, during which he played for the New Orleans Saints in
3 addition to the Jets, Steve O'Neal punted for more than 13,700 yards
4 while recording an average of 40.7 yards per kick; when his career
5 was cut short by a knee injury, he left the game and enrolled at the
6 University of Tennessee; he earned a degree in dentistry in 1974 and
7 returned to Texas to establish a practice; and

8 WHEREAS, With his notable success at the collegiate and
9 professional levels and his record-breaking performance as a rookie
10 in the National Football League, Steve O'Neal has contributed to
11 the Lone Star State's tradition of athletic excellence, and he is
12 indeed deserving of this lasting tribute to his achievements; now,
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
15 Legislature hereby congratulate Steve O'Neal on his induction into
16 the American Football Kicking Hall of Fame and extend to him sincere
17 best wishes for continued happiness; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
19 prepared for Dr. O'Neal as an expression of high regard by the Texas
20 House of Representatives.