

By: Simpson

H.R. No. 2543

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In 2013, esteemed entrepreneur Thomas Sharpe
2 Wilmeth of Daingerfield is celebrating two impressive achievements
3 in his life: his receipt of an honorary doctorate from Purdue
4 University and his 100th birthday; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Chicago on October 2, 1913, Tom Wilmeth grew
6 up in Indianapolis and studied engineering at Purdue University; he
7 graduated in 1935 and first gained employment with IBM and then
8 Allis-Chalmers, a manufacturing company; he worked in the latter
9 company's Milwaukee plant during World War II, making steam turbine
10 rotors and other materials needed for the war; known for his dogged
11 and efficient style and ability to solve tough problems, he was
12 eventually promoted into a management position; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Wilmeth collaborated with his brother, Harvey,
14 and others to start Scot Industries in 1949, even as he continued
15 his career with Allis-Chalmers and later with A. O. Smith; Scot
16 Industries took off in the late 1950s, and Mr. Wilmeth turned his
17 attention to the company full-time; specializing in honed tubing
18 for hydraulic cylinders, the business soon outgrew its first plant
19 in Milwaukee, and today this industry leader has locations in 10
20 cities across North America, including Lone Star, Texas; while
21 Mr. Wilmeth remains actively involved in the company, his son,
22 Steven, now serves as its president; and

23 WHEREAS, In addition to his son, Mr. Wilmeth's family
24 includes his wife, Benette, with whom he has shared nearly 15 years,

1 a daughter, Suzanne, four grandchildren, Catherine, Jennifer,
2 Melissa, and Whittaker, and six great-grandchildren; several of his
3 loved ones were in attendance when he received his honorary degree
4 on May 11; he has contributed greatly to his alma mater, from his
5 participation as a member of the President's Council to his
6 contribution of the Library Scholars Grant; and

7 WHEREAS, The wisdom and experience of centenarians are a
8 source of enduring inspiration, and it is indeed a pleasure to honor
9 Thomas Wilmeth for having joined an elite group of Americans who can
10 claim 100 years of meaningful accomplishments and wonderful
11 memories; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
13 Legislature hereby congratulate Thomas Sharpe Wilmeth on his 100th
14 birthday and on his receipt of an honorary doctorate from Purdue
15 University and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued
16 happiness; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for Mr. Wilmeth as an expression of high regard by the
19 Texas House of Representatives.