

By: Clardy

H.R. No. 238

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Francis Edward Abernethy of Nacogdoches has long
2 played a vital role in his community and in the cultural life of
3 Texas; and

4 WHEREAS, The Distinguished Regents Professor Emeritus of
5 English at Stephen F. Austin State University, "Ab" Abernethy
6 taught SFA students for 32 years; he is also editor emeritus of the
7 Texas Folklore Society, and he has edited numerous volumes for the
8 organization, among them *Tales from the Big Thicket*, *Legendary*
9 *Ladies of Texas*, and *Juneteenth Texas*; in addition, he is the author
10 of poetry, short stories, a book on Texas folk music, and personal
11 accounts of his wide travels; in 1974 he was inducted into the Texas
12 Institute of Letters; and

13 WHEREAS, This remarkable Renaissance man performed around
14 the state for decades as a singer and bass fiddle player with the
15 East Texas String Ensemble, and he is known to local residents as
16 the builder of the Lanana Creek Trail; dedicated in 1986, it follows
17 an old Indian footpath; subsequently, he helped establish the
18 Banita Creek Trail; he has served as the curator of exhibits for the
19 East Texas Historical Association and has given generously of his
20 time and vast expertise to historic restoration and preservation
21 projects in Nacogdoches; for his many endeavors in behalf of his
22 fellow residents, he was named 2008 Citizen of the Year by the
23 Nacogdoches Chamber of Commerce; and

24 WHEREAS, Born in Altus, Oklahoma, in 1925, Dr. Abernethy grew

1 up in the Texas Panhandle and East Texas and graduated from high
2 school in Nacogdoches; he served in the United States Navy during
3 World War II and took part in the occupation of Japan; after the
4 war, he hitchhiked and worked his way across the United States and
5 Canada before completing his bachelor's degree at SFA and his
6 master's degree at Louisiana State University; following a stint
7 teaching high school English in Woodville, he earned his doctoral
8 degree at LSU in, fittingly, Renaissance literature; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Abernethy taught English at Lamar University for
10 nine years at the beginning of his distinguished academic career;
11 along the way, he gained experience as a field biologist for
12 Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, and for two decades, he
13 participated in studies of Mexican cave fauna in the Sierra Madres
14 and the Yucatan; and

15 WHEREAS, A popular speaker, Ab Abernethy continues to share
16 his tremendous store of knowledge with the members of various
17 professional and civic organizations, and he has inspired
18 innumerable people with his love of learning, teaching, and living
19 life as fully as humanly possible; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
21 Legislature hereby honor Dr. Francis Edward Abernethy for his
22 myriad contributions to his community and to the Lone Star State and
23 extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for Dr. Abernethy as an expression of high regard by the
26 Texas House of Representatives.