

By: Herrero

H.R. No. 1298

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. John Tunnell, retired associate director of the
2 Harte Research Institute at Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi,
3 has been named professor emeritus by The Texas A&M University
4 System Board of Regents; and

5 WHEREAS, Emeritus status is conferred on select former
6 faculty members and administrators in recognition of their
7 significant contributions to the educational community; many of
8 these distinguished educators continue to serve the university
9 during their retirement; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Tunnell joined A&M--Corpus Christi as an
11 assistant professor of biology in 1974 and went on to forge a
12 distinguished career there that would span 39 years; during his
13 long tenure with the university, he advised numerous graduate
14 students and developed and taught 18 different courses, including
15 one he offered each year that involved a field trip to study the
16 coral reefs in Mexico; "Wes" Tunnell also founded the Center for
17 Coastal Studies, the university's first research center, and in
18 2001 he became associate director of the newly endowed Harte
19 Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI); he played a key
20 role in establishing HRI, from helping design the facility to
21 developing its first doctoral program; and

22 WHEREAS, Highly respected by his colleagues, Dr. Tunnell was
23 named to the Endowed Chair for Biodiversity and Conservation
24 Science at HRI in 2011, and in 2013 he was recognized with a Harte's

1 Heroes Award; and

2 WHEREAS, Through his myriad endeavors in behalf of Texas A&M
3 University--Corpus Christi, Dr. Wes Tunnell has contributed
4 immeasurably to advancing the mission of that school, and he is
5 indeed deserving of this most recent accolade; now, therefore, be
6 it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
8 Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Wes Tunnell on his designation
9 as professor emeritus at Texas A&M University--Corpus Christi and
10 extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success and
11 happiness; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for Dr. Tunnell as an expression of high regard by the
14 Texas House of Representatives.