

R E S O L U T I O N

1        WHEREAS, A full and productive life drew to a close with the  
2 passing of admired entrepreneur and philanthropist Thomas Sharpe  
3 Wilmeth of Daingerfield on January 5, 2015, at the age of 101; and

4        WHEREAS, The son of Leona and Delbert Wilmeth, Tom Wilmeth  
5 was born in Chicago on October 2, 1913, and grew up in Indianapolis;  
6 he demonstrated remarkable business acumen at an early age, selling  
7 hot-roasted peanuts and strawberries door-to-door, and by the age  
8 of 15, he had established Tom Wilmeth Radio Repair; he enrolled at  
9 Purdue University when he was 16 and went on to complete his  
10 bachelor's degree in electrical engineering magna cum laude; and

11        WHEREAS, Mr. Wilmeth and his wife, Margaret, became the  
12 parents of two children, Steven and Suzanne; after he was widowed,  
13 he was fortunate enough to find love a second time with the former  
14 Benette Laiken, and they shared a fulfilling marriage of more than  
15 15 years; and

16        WHEREAS, During the Great Depression and World War II,  
17 Mr. Wilmeth worked for IBM, Allis Chalmers, and A. O. Smith  
18 Company; he and his brother, Harvey, founded Scot Industries in  
19 Milwaukee in 1949, and with his engineering, design, and business  
20 skills, Mr. Wilmeth built the company into an international  
21 specialty tubing supplier with 13 plants across the country and in  
22 Canada; even after his son, Steven, took over as president,  
23 Mr. Wilmeth worked every day, excited to seek solutions to new  
24 challenges; he also remained an avid sailor until the age of 99; and

1           WHEREAS, Deeply committed to education, Tom Wilmeth gave  
2 generously of his time and resources to his alma mater; he helped  
3 fund the library's first electronic database, and he served on the  
4 Libraries Dean's Advisory Council for a decade; in 2004, Purdue  
5 conferred on him its President's Council Distinguished Pinnacle  
6 Award, and in 2013, he received an honorary doctorate of  
7 engineering information literacy; the university will dedicate the  
8 Thomas S. and Harvey D. Wilmeth Library of Engineering and Science  
9 upon its completion in 2017; over the years, Mr. Wilmeth was a  
10 benefactor of the Boy Scouts, the Mayo Clinic, and other charities  
11 as well; and

12           WHEREAS, Tom Wilmeth set an inspiring example through his  
13 active lifestyle, his generosity, and his love of learning, and his  
14 contributions will continue to resonate in the years to come; now,  
15 therefore, be it

16           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
17 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Thomas Sharpe  
18 Wilmeth and extend sincere condolences to the members of his  
19 family: to his wife, Benette Laiken Wilmeth; to his sister,  
20 Rosemary Wilmeth Reeves; to his son, Steven Lytton Wilmeth, and his  
21 wife, Victoria Berglund; to his daughter, Suzanne Wilmeth Anderson;  
22 to his four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; and to his  
23 other relatives and friends; and, be it further

H.R. No. 2063

1           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
2 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
3 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Tom  
4 Wilmeth.

Hughes

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2063 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 21, 2015.

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Chief Clerk of the House