

By: Hughes

H.R. No. 2063

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

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
26 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Tom
27 Wilmeth.