

By: Hunter

H.R. No. 1054

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Dr. John W. Tunnell Jr. has been named the recipient
2 of the Coastal Conservation Association Lifetime Achievement
3 Award; and

4 WHEREAS, A prominent marine biologist and ecologist, "Wes"
5 Tunnell focuses particularly on coastal and coral reef ecosystems,
6 oil spills in the marine environment, and biodiversity in the Gulf
7 of Mexico; he has studied the banks off South Texas since the late
8 1960s, when he was a graduate student in biology; after completing
9 his doctoral degree at Texas A&M University, he joined the
10 TAMU--Corpus Christi faculty in 1974, and 10 years later, he
11 founded its first science research center, the Center for Coastal
12 Studies, and became its director; he later assisted in the
13 development of the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico
14 Studies as founding associate director; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Tunnell was named TAMU--CC's first Regents
16 Professor in 1998, and in 2015, he was accorded professor emeritus
17 status; he continues to work half-time at HRI, where he holds an
18 endowed chair in biodiversity and conservation science and serves
19 as general editor of the institute's book series; he also serves as
20 general editor of the TAMU--CC Gulf Coast Books series and as
21 curator of marine biology for the Houston Museum of Natural
22 Science; and

23 WHEREAS, In the wake of the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill,
24 Dr. Tunnell was called upon to gauge how long it would take the Gulf

1 and its shrimp, fish, crabs, and oysters to fully recover; his
2 report was used to calculate distributions from the \$20 billion
3 fund established to compensate victims of the disaster; over the
4 course of his career, Dr. Tunnell has secured more than 150 grants
5 and contracts for the support of marine research, and he has
6 authored or coauthored 7 books, some 70 technical reports, and over
7 100 scholarly articles and book chapters; he has also advised a host
8 of graduate students, developed and taught numerous courses, and
9 assisted in the development of eight degree programs and seven
10 graduate student scholarships; in 2016, the Harte Charitable
11 Foundation created the Dr. Wes Tunnell Gulf of Mexico Fellowship
12 Program in his honor; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Wes Tunnell has made enormous contributions to
14 our understanding and appreciation of the Gulf of Mexico and to
15 environmental conservation, and he is richly deserving of this most
16 recent accolade; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
18 Legislature hereby congratulate Dr. Wes Tunnell on his receipt of
19 the Coastal Conservation Association Lifetime Achievement Award
20 and extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be
21 it further

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