

By: Craddick

H.C.R. No. 13

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Discovery Operating in Midland is celebrating the  
2 50th anniversary of its founding on October 12, 2023, and this  
3 occasion offers a welcome opportunity to recognize the history and  
4 accomplishments of this venerable petroleum industry business; and

5 WHEREAS, Discovery Operating opened its doors in 1973, after  
6 Don Sparks and his wife, Gwyn, invested \$10,000 of their savings to  
7 get the business off the ground; a 1962 graduate of The University  
8 of Texas at Austin, where he earned a degree in petroleum  
9 engineering, Mr. Sparks had worked for a number of oil and gas firms  
10 in the 1960s and early 1970s; he drew on that experience and put in  
11 countless hours of hard work to make Discovery a success; the  
12 company has grown steadily over the years, focusing on discovering  
13 and developing its own production, and today it operates hundreds  
14 of wells in the Lone Star State; and

15 WHEREAS, An independent, family-run business, Discovery  
16 Operating benefits from the efforts of multiple members of the  
17 Sparks family; Don Sparks continues to oversee the company in his  
18 role as chairman of the board, while Gwyn Sparks works in the  
19 accounting office; their children, Jeff Sparks, state senator Kevin  
20 Sparks, and Todd Sparks, serve as chief operating officer, chief  
21 executive officer, and chief financial officer, respectively;  
22 Discovery has also employed Don's brother, Bynum, and the family  
23 legacy is continuing with a third generation now contributing to  
24 the enterprise; and

1           WHEREAS, In addition to running Discovery Operating, the  
2 members of the Sparks family have given generously of their time and  
3 talents in behalf of their fellow citizens, serving the community  
4 through their membership on various boards and taking an active  
5 role in civic affairs; and

6           WHEREAS, For half a century, Discovery Operating has  
7 contributed to the economic prosperity of the Midland area and  
8 beyond, and the Sparks family and their employees may indeed take  
9 pride in the business's outstanding record of achievement; now,  
10 therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas,  
12 3rd Called Session, hereby commemorate the 50th anniversary of  
13 Discovery Operating and extend to all those associated with the  
14 company sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it  
15 further

16           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
17 prepared for Discovery Operating as an expression of high regard by  
18 the Texas House of Representatives and Senate.