

By: Craddick

H.C.R. No. 42

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, W. E. Connell, a banker and pioneering figure in the
2 early development of the Permian Basin's oil and gas business, is
3 being posthumously inducted into the Petroleum Hall of Fame on
4 April 10, 2025; and

5 WHEREAS, Based at the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum in
6 Midland, the Petroleum Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have
7 made outstanding contributions to the development of the petroleum
8 industry in the region; and

9 WHEREAS, Born in Bell County in 1858, Wilson Edward Connell
10 distinguished himself as a banker, cattleman, and property owner;
11 he recognized the need for financial infrastructure in West Texas
12 and in 1888 cofounded what would become the First National Bank of
13 Midland; his efforts later expanded to Fort Worth, where he led the
14 First National Bank of Fort Worth through critical periods such as
15 the Great Depression; and

16 WHEREAS, Often called the "Father of West Texas," Mr. Connell
17 supported many early oil ventures, including the first well drilled
18 in Ector County in 1926; he also served as vice president and a
19 stockholder of the Dublin Oil Mills, treasurer of the Texas and
20 Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, director of the Texas and
21 Pacific Railway, and vice president of the Cicero Smith Lumber
22 Company; when he passed away on May 5, 1936, he left his heirs more
23 than 90,000 acres of undivided mineral ownership, further
24 supporting the region's petroleum industry development; and

1 WHEREAS, Admired for his vision, energy, and business acumen,
2 W. E. Connell was a pioneering figure in the early development of
3 the Permian Basin's oil and gas industry, and he is indeed a worthy
4 addition to the Petroleum Hall of Fame; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the 89th Legislature of the State of Texas
6 hereby honor the memory of W. E. Connell on the occasion of his
7 posthumous induction into the Petroleum Hall of Fame and pay
8 tribute to his life and legacy.