

By: Goolsby

H.R. No. 20

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Memories of a life filled with many joyful times and  
2 meaningful accomplishments may comfort the family and friends of  
3 James Lindsay Embrey, Jr., of Dallas, who passed away on November  
4 11, 2005; and

5           WHEREAS, Born in 1925 in Gainesville, Mr. Embrey took  
6 justifiable pride in his distinguished Lone Star heritage, as he  
7 was the great-grandson of James Menees Lindsay, a Cooke County  
8 pioneer who came to Texas from his native Tennessee in 1857 and went  
9 on to become a major developer of the area as well as a noted judge  
10 and philanthropist; and

11           WHEREAS, Accomplished in his own right, James Embrey was  
12 active in sports in his youth and graduated from Gainesville High  
13 School with honors and from Southern Methodist University, where he  
14 earned a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering in 1945;  
15 while a student at SMU, he answered his country's call to arms as a  
16 participant in the V-12 program during World War II, and he also  
17 served as president of Phi Delta Theta and lettered as a varsity  
18 guard on the SMU basketball team; in 1947, after finishing his naval  
19 service, Mr. Embrey completed yet another degree, receiving a  
20 bachelor's in business administration; and

21           WHEREAS, Mr. Embrey made a name for himself in the business  
22 community over the course of a remarkable career that spanned a  
23 half-century; in the mid-1950s, he and George Underwood, Jr.,  
24 developed Richardson Heights and became pivotal figures in the

1 growth of the Richardson area; most recently, Mr. Embrey had  
2 distinguished himself as chair of First Continental Enterprises,  
3 and he also co-owned several shopping centers and apartment  
4 complexes in the area; and

5 WHEREAS, In addition to contributing to the economic vitality  
6 of his community, Mr. Embrey gave generously of his time, talents,  
7 and resources to Southern Methodist University; a member of its  
8 board of trustees from 1970 to 1987, he was named trustee emeritus  
9 of the university in 1991, and he also served as chair of both the  
10 SMU Alumni Board and Mustang Club, president of the SMU Alumni  
11 Association, and member of the SMU Athletic Forum Board and the  
12 School of Engineering Executive Board; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Embrey's dedication to his alma mater has  
14 touched the lives of countless people in a positive and lasting  
15 manner; more than 2,000 engineering students have received  
16 scholarships through an endowment he established in 1978, and  
17 Mr. Embrey and his wife, Bobbie, donated funds for the construction  
18 of the Jerry R. Junkins Engineering Building and the Gerald J. Ford  
19 Stadium; in 2003, they further helped to make possible the  
20 development of the Embrey Engineering Building; and

21 WHEREAS, For their long-standing support, SMU honored the  
22 Embreys in 1999 with the university's Mustang Award, and the School  
23 of Engineering presented Mr. Embrey with its Hall of Leaders  
24 Distinguished Alumni Award in 2004; on November 3, 2005, he  
25 received the highest honor SMU bestows on its graduates, the  
26 Distinguished Alumni Award; and

27 WHEREAS, James Embrey is deeply missed by all who were

1 privileged to know him, and he will long be remembered for the  
2 legacy of achievement and altruism he leaves behind; now,  
3 therefore, be it

4         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
5 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of  
6 James Lindsay Embrey, Jr., and extend sincere sympathy to the  
7 members of his family: to his beloved wife, Bobbie G. Sherwood  
8 Embrey; to his daughters, Gayle Nelson Embrey and Lauren Marsh  
9 Embrey; to his grandsons, Jeffery Daniel Dean Harwell, Jr., and  
10 James Lindsay Embrey Harwell; to his stepchildren, Robert Sherwood  
11 Pirtle, James Taylor Pirtle, Jeanann Pirtle Galvis, and Lynne  
12 Pirtle Bierdz; to his foster son, David Moore; to his cousin, Bryan  
13 Marquis; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

14         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
15 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
16 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of James  
17 Lindsay Embrey, Jr.