

By: Seaman

H.R. No. 150

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The University of Texas Marine Science Institute in  
2 Port Aransas is observing its 60th anniversary in 2006, and this  
3 occasion provides a fitting opportunity to recognize the oldest  
4 marine research station on the Texas Gulf Coast; and

5           WHEREAS, Established by an act of the Texas Legislature, the  
6 institute is an organized research unit of The University of Texas  
7 at Austin, with an emphasis on understanding the biological,  
8 chemical, and physical processes governing the coastal zone  
9 ecosystem; and

10           WHEREAS, Starting its early operation in a modest building on  
11 the old Corps of Engineers dock, research continues today from its  
12 base of 72 acres of beachfront land that includes laboratories,  
13 classrooms, and offices, in addition to a library, museum,  
14 visitor's center, auditorium, and five-acre boat basin for research  
15 vessels; the institute's academic branch, the Department of Marine  
16 Science, has offered field-based college courses for  
17 undergraduates and research opportunities for graduate students  
18 for decades, and since it began offering graduate degrees 15 years  
19 ago, it has conferred more than 50 master's degrees and over 30  
20 doctoral degrees in marine science; and

21           WHEREAS, The institute has been home to some of the country's  
22 most notable marine scientists, including its founder and first  
23 director, Dr. Elmer J. Lund, named by American Men of Science as one  
24 of the first 1,000 scientists in North America, Dr. Howard T. Odum,

1 considered the father of modern ecology, Dr. Patrick L. Parker,  
2 whose research greatly influenced the field of chemical  
3 oceanography, and Dr. Gordon P. Gunter, for whom a National Oceanic  
4 and Atmospheric Administration ship is named; today scientists at  
5 the institute continue this tradition of achievement as they work  
6 to address issues related to the Texas coast; and

7 WHEREAS, The institute has trained hundreds of  
8 schoolteachers in using marine science as an instructional tool for  
9 subjects ranging from math to art, and it introduces tens of  
10 thousands of schoolchildren and other visitors to the wonders of  
11 the sea each year; and

12 WHEREAS, A world-class center of marine research, The  
13 University of Texas Marine Science Institute is committed to  
14 educating the public through its exceptional outreach programs and  
15 contributes immeasurably to the stewardship of the coastal  
16 ecosystem and to the advancement of marine science; now, therefore,  
17 be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
19 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby honor The University of  
20 Texas Marine Science Institute on the occasion of its 60th  
21 anniversary and extend to its alumni, faculty, staff, and friends  
22 deep appreciation for their continued study and care of the Texas  
23 Gulf Coast; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
25 prepared for the institute as an expression of high regard by the  
26 Texas House of Representatives.