

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 98

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. William Paul Fife of Bryan, Texas.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. William Paul Fife; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Fife was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William Fife had served with acumen and alacrity as a Professor at Texas A&M University (TAMU) since 1967, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his academic career, Dr. Fife rendered thirty years of sterling military service as a member of the United States Air Force (USAF), and he ultimately achieved the rank of Colonel; and

WHEREAS, born November 23, 1917 in Plymouth, Indiana, he received a Bachelor of Science in Anatomy from the University of Washington; and

WHEREAS, World War II interrupted Dr. Fife's medical school career; he began his long and distinguished military career as a member of the 503<sup>rd</sup> Parachute Infantry, serving in the South Pacific; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, Dr. Fife married Anna Hoss of Johnson City, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, he attended the Defense Language Institute in 1948, learning Russian at a time when such a skill was critical to the security of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the first person to place a radio receiver on an air plane, Dr. Fife is known as the "Father of Airborne Intercept"; he planned and flew the first USAF Security Service reconnaissance mission in 1949; and

WHEREAS, from 1954 to 1956, Dr. Fife was stationed in Moscow, serving as a Russian expert for military intelligence; and

WHEREAS, still interested in matters of medicine and the human body, Dr. Fife continued his education, receiving a Doctor of Philosophy in Physiology from Ohio State University in 1960; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William Fife became a seminal figure in the Cold War race for space; as Assistant Chief of the Aerospace Medical Research Division at Brooks Field Air Force Base, he performed critical research in the area of g-force survival; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, he joined the faculty of TAMU, where he also served as Chairman of the Biology Department, Dean of Research, and Vice President of Academic Affairs; at the time of his death, he was a Professor Emeritus at the university; and

WHEREAS, a pioneer in undersea medicine, Dr. Fife acted as Director of the TAMU Hyperbaric Laboratory, where he conducted deep diving research and made significant advances in the field of hyperbaric oxygen therapy; and

WHEREAS, for his groundbreaking work at TAMU, Dr. William Fife received not only a prestigious teaching award from the university but also the Duke of Edinburgh Award, which His Royal Highness Prince Phillip presented to Dr. Fife for his work with British colleagues; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his Cold War service, he received the Legion of Merit and was inducted into both the Air Intelligence Agency Hall of Honor and the Defense Language Institute Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Fife was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of sixty-two years, Ann, and was the proud father of Julia Ann Fife and her husband, Dr. Donald Welch, and Dr. Caroline Esther Fife and her husband, Dr. Alan G. Moore; and

WHEREAS, he will also be sorely missed by his grandchildren, Anna Welch Baez, Deborah Welch, Megan Moore Peykoff, Laura Kathryn Moore, and William Marcus Moore, and one great-grandson, Nelson Baez III; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Fife was preceded in death by an infant son, William Paul Fife, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William Fife leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. William Paul Fife, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Fife.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.