

# SENATE JOURNAL

EIGHTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE — SECOND CALLED SESSION

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AUSTIN, TEXAS

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PROCEEDINGS

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**THIRD DAY**

(Continued)

(Friday, July 26, 2013)

**AFTER RECESS**

The Senate met at 4:12 p.m. and was called to order by the President.

## **REMARKS ORDERED PRINTED**

On motion of Senator Whitmire and by unanimous consent, the remarks by Senators Williams and Taylor were ordered reduced to writing and printed in the *Senate Journal* as follows:

**Senator Williams:** Thank you, Mr. President. Texas lost one of its brightest stars and a very great man today. Mr. Mitchell was an American businessman, real estate developer, and philanthropist. He passed away this morning at the age of 94 at his home in Galveston. Mr. Mitchell was born to Greek immigrants in Galveston in 1919. He learned the value of hard work at a young age with a summer job in the Louisiana oil fields. And from that experience he became interested in the oil and gas business, went on to earn a petroleum engineering degree at Texas A&M, where he graduated first in his class. He was a captain in the Army Corps of Engineers during World War II, and he went on to establish Mitchell Energy and Development, one of the nation's largest independent oil and gas companies. Mr. Mitchell was an innovator and a pioneer and a visionary in every sense of the word. He and his research team pioneered the development of hydraulic fracking, a process that we all hear about now but that he worked on for many, many years before he perfected it. This process is responsible for the oil and gas boom that we are enjoying in Texas here today and, indeed, across the country in places that you've never thought of as oil and gas producing states, like New York and other areas that have traditionally not been oil and gas producing states. Mr. Mitchell could have patented and kept that process and that technology to inure to his own benefit, but instead he gave that to the world. After he spent years of time and his own money and his own fortune developing that, he freely gave that technology so that others in the industry could continue to perfect it. He is one of the most generous people that I have ever known in my life. I believe I'm correct when I say he is the largest donor to Texas A&M. There are a lot of numbers that have been thrown around, but there's a lot of gifts that many people have received and no one knows that George Mitchell was behind that. His partner in life was his wife, Cynthia, who died a few years ago, who was one of the most gracious people I've ever known in my life. And she was the mother of his 10

children and did a wonderful job of raising those children while he built one of the largest independent oil and gas companies that's publicly held and, of course, a real estate empire. Cynthia is the person who inspired Mr. Mitchell to start The Woodlands, which is my hometown. And The Woodlands was part originally of 75,000 acres of timberland that Mr. Mitchell owned in Montgomery County, and Cynthia had a vision for a new town and convinced him to take 25,000 acres and make that the community that it is today of over 100,000 people. That would have never happened in the era that he started that there were many of these new towns that were started across the country with urban land development loans. This is one of the few that made it and by far the most successful, and it's because Mr. Mitchell put his time and his fortune into making sure that was a successful venture. The Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation is a mission-driven grantmaking foundation that seeks innovative and sustainable solutions for human and environmental problems. Since he established it in 1978, they have distributed over \$400 million toward those goals of sustainable living. He also signed "The Giving Pledge," along with Bill Gates, and pledged half of his fortune to charity. Mr. Mitchell is remembered by thousands of people, by the thousands of lives he touched. He loved The Woodlands and he loved Galveston, which was his hometown. And Galveston would not be the wonderful place that it is today if it wasn't for George Mitchell. At the turn of the last century, in the early 1900s, Galveston was known as the Wall Street of the Southwest. But when the Houston Ship Channel was completed and became active, Galveston sort of fell to the wayside, and if it hadn't been for Mr. Mitchell coming back in and redeveloping those places in downtown Galveston, it would not be the beautiful tourist mecca that it is today. Funeral arrangements are pending with Carnes Brothers Funeral Home in Galveston. There's nothing that Mr. Mitchell loved more than sitting down and having a cup of coffee and talking about the current affairs of the world or trying to make a business deal over a cup of coffee. And he did that often at the old coffee shop down at the Bank of the Southwest building in Houston, he did it at The Woodlands in a development company, and he was often found at the coffee shop at the Tremont in Galveston. He was a wonderful and generous person and that rare visionary that it was my great privilege to know. Thank you.

**Senator Taylor:** Thank you, Mr. President, and I, too, want to rise along with my colleague Senator Williams to honor the life of Mr. Mitchell, truly a life well-lived. He had such an amazing impact on his community, both the community he created, The Woodlands, and then the community of his birth in Galveston. You know he did a number of things in Galveston for his hometown, the redevelopment of The Strand, the rebirth of Mardi Gras that we know, along with the redevelopment of a couple of nice hotels, historic hotels. This great man will certainly be missed by the citizens of Texas, and this great state will be hard-pressed to replace a man like Mr. Mitchell. Thank you.

#### **CO-AUTHOR OF SENATE BILL 40**

On motion of Senator Zaffirini, Senator Taylor will be shown as Co-author of **SB 40**.

**RESOLUTIONS OF RECOGNITION**

The following resolutions were adopted by the Senate:

**Memorial Resolutions**

**SR 106** by Williams, In memory of George Phydias Mitchell.

**HCR 13** (Rodríguez), In memory of World War II veteran Jacinto Romo of El Paso.

**Congratulatory Resolutions**

**SR 98** by Lucio, Recognizing Kleberg County on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

**HCR 8** (Watson), Congratulating James Oran McCorquodale of Austin on his 90th birthday.

**RECESS**

On motion of Senator Whitmire, the Senate at 4:22 p.m. recessed, in memory of George P. Mitchell, until 2:00 p.m. Monday, July 29, 2013.

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**APPENDIX**

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**RESOLUTIONS ENROLLED**

July 25, 2013

**SR 72, SR 73, SR 74, SR 75, SR 76, SR 77, SR 78, SR 79, SR 80, SR 81, SR 82, SR 83, SR 84, SR 85, SR 86, SR 87, SR 88, SR 89, SR 90, SR 91, SR 92, SR 93, SR 94, SR 95, SR 96, SR 97**

