

REFERENCE TITLE: Gordon Dutt; death resolution

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Fifty-fifth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2022

HR 2011

Introduced by
Representative Hernandez D

A RESOLUTION

ON THE DEATH OF DR. GORDON DUTT.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Dr. Gordon Richard Dutt passed away at the age of ninety-one on
2 September 4, 2021 in his home.

3 Gordon Dutt was born on October 25, 1929 in Choteau, Montana. His
4 family moved and settled in Great Falls, where Gordon graduated from high
5 school and joined the United States Navy, serving as an air traffic
6 controller. After being discharged by the Navy, Gordon returned to
7 Montana where he graduated from Montana State University and, in 1954,
8 married Frances Sletton. After graduating with his Ph.D. from Purdue
9 University, he taught at the University of California, Davis, until moving
10 his family to Tucson in 1963, where he joined the faculty at the
11 University of Arizona, College of Agriculture.

12 Focusing on arid land agriculture-scale water harvesting in the
13 mid-1970s, Dr. Dutt chose to concentrate his research on wine crops, which
14 had not been grown in Arizona since before Prohibition. The grapes
15 flourished and produced remarkably good wine, so he changed his focus to
16 wine grape cultivation in the southwest United States, resulting in the
17 beginning of the Arizona wine industry.

18 In 1978, Dr. Dutt purchased land in the Sonoita and Elgin area where
19 he and his partners started Sonoita Vineyards, which opened in 1983 as the
20 first modern commercial vineyard in this State. Dr. Dutt, widely known as
21 the father of the Arizona wine industry, was instrumental in helping pass
22 Arizona farm winery laws, establishing the Arizona Wine Growers
23 Association, registering the Sonoita American Viticultural Area and
24 establishing the Arizona Wine Commission.

25 Continuing his lifelong love of flying, Dr. Dutt maintained his
26 pilot's license throughout his life. In 1967, he was one of the 25
27 founding charter members of the Tucson Soaring Club and, over the decades,
28 he served the club as president, a flight instructor and a tow pilot.

29 A loving and devoted husband and father, Dr. Dutt is preceded in
30 death by his wife, Frances, and is survived by his two sons, Richard and
31 Howard, and his four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

32 Therefore,

33 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona:

34 That the Members of the House of Representatives sincerely regret
35 the passing of Dr. Gordon Dutt and extend their most sincere sympathies
36 and condolences to his surviving relatives.