

# Resolution of the RICE ENGINEERING ALUMNI

*Whereas*

## M. Kenneth Oshman 1940–2011

was an esteemed alumnus who served Rice University as a benefactor, a member of the Board of Governors from 1984 to 1988, and trustee since 2004, and was recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus in 1984 and an Outstanding Engineering Alumnus in 1993; *and*

*Whereas* Ken exemplified academic and professional excellence, earning a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering *summa cum laude* in 1962; earning his master's and doctoral degrees in electrical engineering at Stanford University in 1966; and being a member of various honor societies including Phi Beta Kappa, Tau Beta Pi, and the National Academy of Engineering, among others; *and*

*Whereas* Ken continued this tradition of excellence as a leader and visionary in the technology industry, founding ROLM Corporation, one of the early startup technology firms in Silicon Valley that became a leading maker of technological systems employed by corporations; epitomizing a management style of dissolving the boundary between work and play, widely considered to be representative of the Silicon Valley technology industry; lending his considerable expertise through service and executive management on a number of boards and committees including the IBM Corporate Management Board, the American Electronics Association, President Reagan's Economic Policy Planning Committee, the Committee to advise the President on High Temperature Superconductivity, and the Sun Microsystems board, among others; *and*

*Whereas* as an accomplished business leader and sage philanthropist, Ken was a leading supporter of Rice, donating the lead gift to establish the Oshman Engineering Design Kitchen, a state-of-the-art design facility that enables students to realize their required design projects through cross-disciplinary collaboration and cross-technology training, transforming engineering education and culture at the George R. Brown School of Engineering; was elected twice to the Board of Trustees and served until his untimely passing; lent support to the Shepherd School of Music through creation of a fellowship and hosting performances in his home; and advocated for art on campus;

*Therefore be it resolved that* the Rice Engineering Alumni hereby express their grateful admiration for the life and contributions of Ken Oshman and offer this resolution as a solemn tribute to his memory and in gratitude for his service to Rice University and its students, faculty, staff and community.

*On behalf of the REA:*

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Brendon J.W. Bailey (Civi, Mech '02)  
Member, REA Board of Directors  
September 15, 2011

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George W. Webb III (Elec '88, '91)  
REA President  
September 15, 2011

*Presented to the family and friends of M. Kenneth Oshman  
September 2011*