

By: Middleton

S.R. No. 44

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Galveston lost a titan of business and
2 philanthropy with the death of Robert Lee Moody Sr. on November 7,
3 2023, at the age of 88; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on Galveston Island on July 28, 1935, Bobby
5 Moody was the son of Shearn Moody Sr. and Frances Moody Newman; his
6 father died the following year, and he and his brother, Shearn, were
7 educated at boarding school; Bobby Moody graduated as the top cadet
8 at Valley Forge Military Academy and served his country in the
9 U.S. Army; mentored by his grandfather, W. L. Moody, the founder of
10 American National Insurance Company, he possessed similar business
11 acumen and established National Western Life Insurance Company in
12 1956; he eventually rose to become chair and president/CEO of ANICO
13 and built it into one of the country's premier insurance firms; in
14 addition, he created an affiliated company that developed the South
15 Shore Harbour subdivision, hotel, and conference center in League
16 City; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Moody also held other key roles in the family
18 business empire, including chair of Moody National Bank; while
19 earning esteem as one of the city's most prominent citizens, he was
20 known for treating everyone around him with respect and empathy; he
21 encouraged the professional development of his employees, and many
22 stayed on for decades; and

23 WHEREAS, Devoted to his hometown, Mr. Moody guided the
24 charitable Moody Foundation and found numerous ways to make a

1 positive impact; he established the Moody Neurorehabilitation
2 Institute to help brain trauma patients, and in 1992, he
3 spearheaded construction of Moody Gardens; one of the Southwest's
4 premier educational and leisure facilities, Moody Gardens draws
5 some two million visitors annually, spurring the local economy
6 while providing horticultural therapy, education, and employment
7 for individuals with disabilities; he further benefited the
8 disability community by creating the Moody Endowment; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Moody maintained a healthy balance between his
10 myriad ventures and his home life; he and his wife of 53 years, Ann
11 McLeod Moody, raised a blended family of eight children, and they
12 broadened their horizons with extensive travel; on Saturday
13 mornings, he was coach, pitcher, and umpire for baseball games with
14 all the neighborhood children; he was preceded in death by an infant
15 son and by his wife; and

16 WHEREAS, An ardent champion of Galveston, Bobby Moody worked
17 tirelessly to provide opportunities for its citizens, through both
18 his professional and philanthropic endeavors, and his
19 contributions will continue to resonate in the years to come; now,
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature, 4th
22 Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of Robert Lee
23 Moody Sr. and extend sincere condolences to the members of his
24 family: to his children, Robert L. Moody Jr. and his wife, Ingrid,
25 Russell S. Moody, Ross R. Moody, Frances Anne "Francie"
26 Moody-Dahlberg and her husband, Kevin, Edwin Vince "Vic" Matthews
27 and his wife, Cindi, Lea McLeod Matthews and her wife, Jennifer,

1 Allan Watkins Matthews and his wife, Lori, and Dorothea "Dotsy"
2 Matthews Balentine and her husband, David; to his grandchildren,
3 Elizabeth Lee "Elle" Moody and her husband, James Gray, Frances
4 Moody Buzbee and her husband, Tony, Robert L. Moody III, Jackson
5 Davis "Jack" Moody, Maggie Grace Moody, Russell Shearn "Rusty"
6 Moody II, William Charles McLeod "Will" Matthews and his wife,
7 Emma, Katherine Leanne "Kit" Matthews, Tiffany Nicole Bastow,
8 Kimberly McLeod Almon and her husband, Jackson, Marissa Ann
9 Matthews, Lauren Anne Balentine, Alexis Gabrielle Moody-Dahlberg,
10 and Ashton Lee Moody-Dahlberg; to his great-grandchildren, Ella Ann
11 Grant, Jackson "Pierce" Almon II, Brooks Woodson Almon, and Ann
12 McLeod "Annie" Almon; and to his other relatives and friends; and,
13 be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this
16 day, it do so in memory of Robert Lee Moody Sr.