

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The National Bar Association is holding its 23rd  
2 Annual Mid-Year Conference and Gertrude E. Rush Award Dinner on  
3 April 9-13, 2003, in Austin, and this event provides a fitting  
4 opportunity to honor this outstanding organization; and

5           WHEREAS, Established on August 1, 1925, the National Bar  
6 Association was founded in Des Moines, Iowa, by 12 African American  
7 pioneers who were united in their dedication to the pursuit of  
8 justice and civil rights for all people; among the organization's  
9 founders was Gertrude E. Rush, a Texas native who was the first  
10 African American woman to practice law in the state of Iowa and the  
11 namesake of the organization's awards dinner; and

12           WHEREAS, The organization, which is headquartered in  
13 Washington, D.C., is under the astute leadership of Malcolm S.  
14 Robinson, the group's 60th president; a cofounder and partner in  
15 the law firm of Robinson & Hoskins L.L.P. in Dallas, Mr. Robinson  
16 has established himself as a leader in the community, and his  
17 impressive history of contributions to the area includes service as  
18 chairman of the Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Dallas  
19 Black Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Dallas Crime Commission, and  
20 the Board of Trustees for the State Bar of Texas Insurance Trust;  
21 and

22           WHEREAS, Since its inception, the National Bar Association  
23 has grown both in size and influence; with more than 20,000 members,  
24 the organization is the country's oldest and largest national

1 association of predominately African American lawyers and judges;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, In addition to providing a professional network for  
4 its membership, this visionary organization hosts numerous  
5 noteworthy civic initiatives, including the Black Elderly Legal  
6 Assistance Support Project; it promotes minority business  
7 enterprise and development through advocacy, technical assistance,  
8 and educational programs and advocates for the nomination and  
9 confirmation of highly qualified African Americans to judicial  
10 positions; it also supports international nondiscrimination  
11 programs and was the only bar group sanctioned by the International  
12 Elections Commission, with members serving as official observers  
13 for the first all race democratic election conducted in South  
14 Africa; and

15 WHEREAS, Over the last 78 years, the men and women of the  
16 National Bar Association have worked to build a brighter and more  
17 promising future for others, and it is a pleasure to recognize them  
18 at this time; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas  
20 Legislature hereby commend Malcolm S. Robinson and all those  
21 associated with the National Bar Association for their dedicated  
22 efforts in the pursuit of justice and extend to them sincere best  
23 wishes for a memorable and meaningful visit to Austin; and, be it  
24 further

H.R. No. 704

1           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
2 prepared for the National Bar Association as an expression of high  
3 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.

Lewis

H.R. No. 704

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 704 was adopted by the House on April 10, 2003, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House