

By: Cook of Colorado

H.R. No. 792

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The passing of Raymond Frank "Buddy" Rau of Columbus
2 on December 20, 2002, at the age of 65 has brought a profound sense
3 of loss to his loved ones and to countless fellow citizens; and

4 WHEREAS, Born December 11, 1937, Mr. Rau devoted his life to
5 the cause of historic preservation; his interest in this vital work
6 extended as far back as 1962, when he helped to organize the
7 Magnolia Homes Tour (MHT), Inc., now the Columbus Historic
8 Preservation Trust, Inc.; a life member of the organization, he
9 later served as the group's president; and

10 WHEREAS, Over the years, Mr. Rau became personally involved
11 in the restoration of several historic properties in Columbus; in
12 1965 he and his parents purchased the Ilse home and he spent nearly
13 four years overseeing work on the building, now known as Raumonda;
14 he later undertook the restoration of two properties that had long
15 been in his mother's family, the Hancock-Heller Home and a general
16 store; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Rau shared his expertise with others as a
18 restoration and landscape consultant from the late 1960s to the
19 1970s; he also operated The Carriage House and Columbus Flower Shop
20 for 22 years in the store once owned by his maternal grandparents;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, This distinguished community leader served as
23 president of the City of Columbus Sesquicentennial Celebration in
24 1973, president of the city's U.S. Bicentennial Celebration in

1 1976, and cochairman of the city's 1991-1992 celebration
2 commemorating the quincentennial of the first voyage to the New
3 World by Christopher Columbus; and

4 WHEREAS, A staunch proponent of heritage tourism, Mr. Rau
5 played an instrumental role in 1987 in organizing the Texas Pioneer
6 Trail, a route linking historic communities in Colorado, Austin,
7 Washington, and Fayette counties; in the early 1990s he served as
8 tourism director for the Columbus Chamber of Commerce and MHT, and
9 in 1996 he helped to organize, and then became executive director
10 of, the Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau (CCVB), an office
11 he held until his passing; and

12 WHEREAS, While head of the CCVB, Mr. Rau initiated the city's
13 Talking House tours and big tree registry, extended the boundaries
14 of the town's historic district, and researched and won approval
15 for more than 90 state historical markers; and

16 WHEREAS, Other organizations with which he was affiliated
17 include the Colorado County Historical Commission, German-Texan
18 Heritage Society, Columbus Lions Club, and Live Oak Art Center; and

19 WHEREAS, Through his tireless commitment to preserving the
20 heritage of one of the state's most historic communities, Buddy Rau
21 has bequeathed a legacy of immeasurable richness to all Texans, and
22 the blessing of his life will be forever cherished by those who were
23 privileged to share his love and friendship; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
25 Legislature hereby pay special tribute to the life of Raymond Frank
26 "Buddy" Rau and extend sincere sympathy to his wife, Laura Ann Rau,
27 and to the many other relatives and friends of this beloved

1 gentleman; and, be it further

2 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
3 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
4 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Raymond
5 Frank "Buddy" Rau.