

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The untimely passing of William H. "Bill" Ratz of
2 Houston on March 11, 2003, at the age of 61, has deeply saddened the
3 family and many friends of this esteemed gentleman; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of Magdeburg, Germany, where he was born on
5 September 16, 1941, to Erwin and Margarete Ratz, he immigrated to
6 the United States and Houston in 1953; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Ratz graduated from Lamar High School and The
8 University of Texas and served his country with distinction as a
9 member of the United States Air Force; and

10 WHEREAS, Professionally, he was a valued member of the
11 insurance and bond business throughout his notable career and most
12 recently served as vice chairman of Willis of Texas, Inc., in
13 Houston; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Ratz contributed his time and resources to
15 myriad civic organizations, including serving as a director of the
16 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and the Houston Farm and Ranch
17 Club, as president of the Whitehall Club and past president of the
18 Texas Good Roads Transportation Association, as a pastoral care
19 committee member at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, and as a board
20 member of Can Care and the McDonald Observatory; and

21 WHEREAS, Moreover, he held many posts locally and nationally
22 with the Association of General Contractors and was a member of the
23 Lakeside Country Club, the University Club, and the Houston Yacht
24 Club; his leisure activities of fly fishing, sailing, hunting, and

1 golf reflected an avid interest in outdoor pursuits; and

2 WHEREAS, Those who shared in the life of Bill Ratz will long
3 miss his friendship, his sense of humor, and his irrepressible
4 grin, and he will surely be remembered with great affection and
5 admiration for many years to come; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
7 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of William H. "Bill" Ratz
8 and extend heartfelt sympathy to his loved ones: to his wife of 34
9 years, Louise McCullough Ratz; to his daughter, Leslie Ratz
10 Easterling, and her husband, Brandon; and to all those who mourn the
11 passing of this beloved man; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
14 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of William H.
15 Ratz.

Kuempel

H.R. No. 1048

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1048 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 23, 2003.

Chief Clerk of the House