

By: Wong

H.R. No. 1701

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost a distinguished citizen and
2 public servant with the passing of the Honorable Searcy Bracewell
3 of Houston on May 13, 2003, at the age of 85; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of Houston and a lifelong resident of that
5 city, Mr. Bracewell was born January 19, 1918, and graduated from
6 Milby High School; in 1938 he earned a degree from Texas A&M
7 University, where he was a member of the Corps of Cadets and Ross
8 Volunteers, as well as drum major of the band; he attended Houston
9 Law School and in 1940 gained admission to the bar; and

10 WHEREAS, During World War II, Mr. Bracewell served on the
11 staff of General George Patton's Third Army; he was awarded the
12 European Theater Medal with five battle stars and was honorably
13 discharged as a major in 1945; and

14 WHEREAS, Following his return to civilian life, Mr. Bracewell
15 joined his father and brother in establishing the law firm that is
16 now known as Bracewell & Patterson, one of the largest firms in the
17 state; he was also a charter member of the Texas Bar Fellows, a
18 member of the Houston Bar Foundation, and chair of the Texas Utility
19 Lawyers Association; and

20 WHEREAS, In addition to his legal career, Mr. Bracewell took
21 an active role in public affairs, serving in the Texas House of
22 Representatives from 1947 to 1949 and in the Texas Senate from 1949
23 to 1959; during his tenure in the legislature he served as president
24 pro tem of the senate and authored bills creating what are today The

1 University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center and The University
2 of Texas Health Science Center Dental School; he later served on the
3 Houston City Charter Commission and as chair of the Texas Water
4 Development Board; and

5 WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Mr. Bracewell rendered
6 invaluable service to Texas A&M University, assisting with
7 fund-raising and providing leadership to such groups as the
8 Chancellor's Century Council, Texas A&M Research Foundation, and
9 Board of Visitors of Texas A&M University at Galveston; and

10 WHEREAS, Widely respected for his seasoned judgment, this
11 outstanding Texan also served on the boards of numerous civic and
12 cultural institutions and several banks and businesses; among the
13 organizations to benefit from his skills and sagacity were the
14 Houston Grand Opera, South Texas College of Law, the Houston
15 Chamber of Commerce, and the Lyric Theater Foundation; and

16 WHEREAS, A dedicated and active member of Kiwanis for many
17 decades, Mr. Bracewell was also a devoted congregant of Second
18 Baptist Church; after World War II, he assisted in the work of a
19 company his father had founded to help churches finance their
20 building programs, a company that by 1979 had aided nearly 4,000
21 congregations; and

22 WHEREAS, Among the many well-deserved honors accorded Mr.
23 Bracewell were an honorary doctorate from the South Texas College
24 of Law, a Humanitarian Award from the American Cancer Research
25 Foundation, and a Leon Jaworski Award for public service from the
26 Houston Bar Association Auxiliary; named a Distinguished Alumnus by
27 Texas A&M, he was also inducted into the Corps of Cadets Hall of

1 Honor; and

2 WHEREAS, Few people contribute as extensively in as many
3 arenas as did Searcy Bracewell; countless lives have been touched
4 and enriched as a result of his tireless efforts, and the memory of
5 this esteemed gentleman will be forever cherished by those who were
6 blessed to share his love and friendship; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That special tribute be paid to the life of the
8 Honorable Searcy Bracewell and that sincere sympathy be extended to
9 the members of his family: to his wife of 63 years, Elizabeth
10 Weaver Bracewell; to his children, Joe Bracewell and his wife,
11 Peggy, and Betsy Machac and her husband, David; to his brother,
12 Fentress Bracewell; to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren;
13 and to his many other relatives and friends; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
16 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Searcy
17 Bracewell.