

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 508

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Since its inception, the National Bar Association has grown both in size and influence; with more than 20,000 members, the organization is the country's oldest and largest national association of predominately African-American lawyers and judges; and

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby commend Malcolm S. Robinson and all those associated with the National Bar Association for their dedicated efforts in the pursuit of justice and extend to them

S.R. No. 508

sincere best wishes for a memorable and meaningful visit to Austin; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the National Bar Association as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 10, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate