

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 591

In Memory  
of  
George Eastland Christian, Jr.

**WHEREAS**, The State of Texas lost one of its towering figures with the passing of George Eastland Christian, Jr., of Austin, on November 27, 2002, at the age of 75; and

**WHEREAS**, A former presidential press secretary and confidant and for over four decades a trusted advisor to state political leaders, Mr. Christian was born in Austin on January 1, 1927; after graduating from Austin High School in 1944, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and saw duty in the Pacific theater and in Japan during the occupation; and

**WHEREAS**, Upon his discharge from the military, Mr. Christian returned to Austin and majored in journalism at The University of Texas; he subsequently spent seven years covering Texas state government for the International News Service; and

**WHEREAS**, Noted for his ability and astute political judgment, he served as press secretary for Governors Price Daniel and John Connally before moving to Washington, D.C., to handle the same assignment for President Lyndon B. Johnson; holding the post of presidential press secretary from 1966 to 1969, during a difficult time in the nation's life, he won the respect of the White House press corps for his unshakable poise and civility; and

**WHEREAS**, At the close of President Johnson's term of office, Mr. Christian returned to Austin and established a public relations, consulting, and lobbying firm, which he continued to operate until his passing; and

**WHEREAS**, In addition to his professional work, he gave untold hours as vice chairman of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation, member and chairman of the Texas Historical Commission, member of the Texas State Cemetery Committee, and member of the boards of the Headliners Foundation, McDonald Observatory, Texas A&M College of Medicine, and Scott and White Memorial Hospital; and

**WHEREAS**, His many accolades included selection as a Distinguished Alumnus of The University of Texas at Austin and as an Outstanding Alumnus of The University of Texas College of Communication; he also received the Texas Award for Historical Preservation from the Texas Historical Commission and the Harvey Penick Award from Caritas of Austin; in 1982, a centennial professorship in journalism was established in his name at The University of Texas at Austin; and

**WHEREAS**, Across the political spectrum, George Christian was deeply respected for his unfailing graciousness and kindness, as well as for his seasoned judgment and sage advice; an unassuming, friendly man with a booming laugh, he could enter the political fray with gusto and uncommon skill, and yet never allow rancor to taint the joust; eulogized as a "titan" on the Texas landscape, he embodied the best virtues of the politically engaged citizen, and he brought enormous honor to the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, pay special tribute to the life of George Eastland Christian, Jr., and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife of 43 years, Jo Anne Christian; to his children and grandchildren; and to his other relatives and many friends; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of George Eastland Christian, Jr.

Ratliff

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 8, 2003, by a rising vote.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate