

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 695

In Memory
of
William Heinz Ratz

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas joins the citizens of Houston in mourning the loss of William Heinz Ratz, who died March 11, 2003, at the age of 61; and

WHEREAS, Bill Ratz was born on September 16, 1941, in Magdeburg, Germany, to Erwin and Margarete Ratz; he immigrated to the United States in 1953 and moved to Houston, where he resided for the rest of his life; and

WHEREAS, He graduated from Lamar High School and The University of Texas at Austin, and he served in the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, Bill had a lifelong career in the insurance and bond business; most recently he had served as vice chairman for Willis of Texas, Incorporated, in Houston; and

WHEREAS, An exemplary citizen, Bill Ratz was respected in the community for his many accomplishments; he was a director for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and a member of the McDonald Observatory Board of Visitors; he also was an active member of several other clubs and associations; and

WHEREAS, Bill had a deep fondness for the outdoors, and he spent many hours playing golf and enjoying fly-fishing, sailing, and hunting; and

WHEREAS, A man of integrity, strength, and generosity, Bill gave unselfishly of his time to others, and his wisdom,

warmth, and valued counsel will not be forgotten by those who knew him; and

WHEREAS, A devout Christian, Bill was a member of Saint Martin's Episcopal Church, where he served with the Pastoral Care Committee; and

WHEREAS, Bill was a devoted husband and father, and he leaves behind memories that will be treasured forever by his family and many friends; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved family of William Heinz Ratz: his wife of 34 years, Louise McCullough Ratz; and his daughter and son-in-law, Leslie and Brandon Easterling; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the members of his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of William Heinz Ratz.

Armbrister

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 29, 2003, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate