

By: Woolley

H.R. No. 30

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State lost a distinguished Texan on
2 January 13, 2006, when Ben Love of Houston passed away at the age of
3 81; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in 1924 in Vernon, Mr. Love was eight years old
5 when he moved with his family to Paris, and he later graduated as
6 president of the Paris High School Class of 1941; and

7 WHEREAS, At the age of 18, Mr. Love enlisted in the U.S. Army
8 Air Force and received his commission and wings from Ellington
9 Field in Houston in 1944; serving with distinction in the 351st Bomb
10 Group, 8th Air Force, in England, he flew 25 combat missions against
11 Germany, concluding his B17 bomber combat tour with 11 decorations,
12 including the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the rank of captain;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, After the war, Mr. Love attended The University of
15 Texas, where he met his future wife, Margaret McKean; they married
16 in 1947 and soon thereafter established their home in Houston; the
17 following year, Mr. Love founded a manufacturing firm, which he
18 merged with a New York Stock Exchange company in 1962; and

19 WHEREAS, Entering the banking industry in 1956, he served as
20 an outside director and later as president of River Oaks Bank &
21 Trust Company of Houston; in 1967, he joined Texas Commerce
22 Bank-Houston and was elected president two years later; in 1972, he
23 became chair and chief executive officer of Texas Commerce
24 Bancshares, a position he held until his retirement in 1989; and

1 WHEREAS, In addition to serving on 12 corporate boards over
2 the course of his career, Mr. Love was a director of the
3 International Monetary Conference, president of the Reserve City
4 Bankers Association, and a three-term member of the Federal Reserve
5 Advisory Council; he was named Regional Banker of the Year in 1975,
6 and *Dun's Business Month* designated Texas Commerce Bancshares as
7 one of the nation's best-managed companies under Mr. Love's
8 leadership; and

9 WHEREAS, This esteemed businessman also tirelessly served
10 his community as chair of the Greater Houston Partnership, The
11 University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center, the Council of
12 Overseers of the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Administration
13 at Rice University, and the Houston Grand Opera; founding chair of
14 the Houston Host Committee and the Texas Aviation Hall of Fame, he
15 served as director of The Mighty Eighth (Air Force) Heritage Museum
16 in Savannah and as president of the Young Presidents Organization
17 in Houston and The University of Texas Ex-Students' Association in
18 Houston; and

19 WHEREAS, Widely recognized for his extensive professional
20 and civic achievements, Mr. Love was named a Distinguished Alumnus
21 by The University of Texas in 1975 and Texas Business Executive of
22 the Year by Texas A&M University's Business School in 1983; other
23 honors include his induction into the Texas Business Hall of Fame,
24 his receipt of the "People of Vision Award", and his selection as
25 Key Houstonian of the Year for 1982 and as "Houston's Greatest
26 Individual" by the Greater Houston Partnership in 2004; moreover,
27 Mr. Love received the Houston Holocaust Museum Lyndon Baines

1 Johnson Moral Courage Award in 1995 and the Rotary Club
2 Distinguished Citizens Award in that same year; and

3 WHEREAS, Ben Love contributed to his community, state, and
4 nation through a lifetime of purposeful endeavor, and he will long
5 be fondly remembered by all who were privileged to know him; now,
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
8 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
9 Ben Love and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his
10 family: to his wife, Margaret Love; to his son, Jeff Love, his
11 wife, Kathy, and their children, Benton and Elizabeth; to his
12 daughter, Jan Love Simmons, her husband, Tom, and their children,
13 Jennie and Charles; and to his other relatives and many friends and
14 admirers in Houston and throughout Texas; and, be it further

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