

By: Coleman

H.R. No. 1082

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A little over 10 years ago, some of the worst  
2 atrocities in the history of mankind took place in the African  
3 country of Rwanda, and although the events passed largely unnoticed  
4 by the rest of the world, a true hero emerged from that terrible  
5 carnage and he is Paul Rusesabagina; and

6           WHEREAS, In April 1994, Mr. Rusesabagina was the acting  
7 manager of the luxury Mille Collines hotel in the capital city of  
8 Kigali when the Hutu militia began brutally killing their Tutsi  
9 neighbors; incited by the assassination of Rwandan president  
10 Juvenal Habyarimana, Hutu extremist politicians blamed Tutsi  
11 rebels for their leader's death and the streets were quickly filled  
12 by Hutu militia, who killed the Tutsi business and political elite  
13 before turning to ordinary citizens; and

14           WHEREAS, At its peak, the genocide claimed 8,000 lives per  
15 day, and before it was over, it is estimated that somewhere between  
16 800,000 and one million Rwandans were murdered; and

17           WHEREAS, More than 1,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus found a  
18 safe haven in Mr. Rusesabagina's hotel, which he turned into an  
19 impromptu refugee camp; the hotel had no defense against attacks,  
20 but with exceptional courage and conviction, this ordinary  
21 businessman managed to hold off the encroaching violence for 11  
22 harrowing weeks and save the lives of most of the people he  
23 sheltered, including his own wife and children; and

24           WHEREAS, Now a businessman in Belgium, Mr. Rusesabagina

1 served as a special consultant on the 2004 United Artists film,  
2 *Hotel Rwanda*, which was inspired by his remarkable story; this  
3 powerful and moving motion picture earned three Academy Award  
4 nominations, including one for actor Don Cheadle, who played Mr.  
5 Rusesabagina in the movie; and

6 WHEREAS, A recipient of Amnesty International's Enduring  
7 Spirit award and the Immortal Chaplains Foundation Prize for  
8 Humanity, Mr. Rusesabagina continues to be involved in charity  
9 organizations aiding survivors of the Rwandan tragedy and has set  
10 up the Hotel Rwanda Rusesabagina Foundation to further help the  
11 relief effort; and

12 WHEREAS, In these complex times, it is often difficult to do  
13 the right thing, but Paul Rusesabagina's inspiring story teaches us  
14 that it is possible for one man to make a profound difference if he  
15 is willing to put the welfare of others before his own; it is indeed  
16 a privilege to welcome Mr. Rusesabagina to the State Capitol; now,  
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
19 Legislature hereby honor Paul Rusesabagina for his extraordinary  
20 humanitarianism and extend to him sincere best wishes for an  
21 enjoyable visit to Texas; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
23 prepared for Mr. Rusesabagina as an expression of high regard by the  
24 Texas House of Representatives.