

By: Driver

H.R. No. 2045

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For more than 40 years, Norman Brinker of Dallas has
2 marked an ingenious professional path with his entrepreneurial
3 spirit and directed ambition; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Denver, Colorado, in 1931, Mr. Brinker
5 graduated from high school in Roswell, New Mexico, and attended the
6 New Mexico Military Institute before joining the U.S. Navy; he
7 subsequently won a berth on the 1952 U.S. Olympic equestrian team
8 and competed in the 1954 Modern Pentathlon World Championships in
9 Budapest; after his military service, he enrolled in the marketing
10 program at San Diego State University and supported himself by
11 selling cutlery door-to-door and managing a clothing import
12 business; and

13 WHEREAS, After college, Mr. Brinker joined entrepreneur
14 Robert Peterson's company, which founded the Jack in the Box
15 restaurants, and quickly rose through the ranks to become a major
16 partner and leader in the rise of the franchise to national
17 prominence; and

18 WHEREAS, In 1965, this visionary professional identified a
19 vacant niche in the restaurant business between fast-food chains
20 and fine dining establishments, and started Steak & Ale restaurants
21 to offer affordable, quality dining; the restaurants expanded
22 rapidly and eventually merged with the Pillsbury Company; by 1982,
23 Mr. Brinker was president of the Pillsbury Restaurant Group, the
24 second-largest restaurant operation in the world; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Brinker eventually invested in Chili's, Inc.,
2 when the organization only included 28 restaurants, and assumed the
3 role of chairman and CEO; in 1991, Chili's was renamed Brinker
4 International, and today operates five unique dining concepts with
5 a total of 1,500 restaurants in 49 states, the District of Columbia,
6 and 24 countries; the organization's innovator retired in 2000 but
7 still serves as chairman emeritus of this widely successful
8 company; and

9 WHEREAS, A published author and recipient of the Horatio
10 Alger Award, Mr. Brinker has personally mentored many of the
11 restaurant industry's top executives and brightest stars, and he is
12 truly an inspiration to resourceful, budding young business leaders
13 across the globe; his rigorous pursuit of his dreams and his
14 unfaltering dedication to quality dining are certainly worthy of
15 special commendation; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
17 Legislature hereby honor Norman Brinker on his extraordinary
18 professional accomplishments and extend to him sincere best wishes
19 for continued success; and, be it further

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