

By: Barrientos, Wentworth

S.C.R. No. 21

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, LeRoy Colombo served as a lifeguard in Galveston for
3 over 40 years and was recognized by the *Guinness Book of World*
4 *Records* for having saved over 900 lives; although he became deaf and
5 was paralyzed as a child as the result of a devastating illness, he
6 regained his ability to walk and swim by using swimming as
7 rehabilitation; and

8 WHEREAS, LeRoy Colombo was born December 23, 1905, in
9 Galveston; a bout with spinal meningitis at the age of seven left
10 him unable to hear or to walk; he began swimming and within a year he
11 could walk again, but he never recovered his hearing; and

12 WHEREAS, He began attending the Texas School for the Deaf in
13 Austin and swam in the campus pool for hours; by the age of 18 he had
14 become a member of the elite Surf Toboggan Club; the club tested
15 prospective members by requiring them to swim continuously for
16 three hours; and

17 WHEREAS, Over the course of his decades-long career as a
18 lifeguard, LeRoy saved a record-setting 907 people from drowning;
19 he retired at the age of 62 but continued to swim in the Gulf of
20 Mexico every day until his death on July 12, 1974; and

21 WHEREAS, Section 2165.005, Government Code, establishes a
22 procedure for the naming of a state building by requiring that the
23 proposed designation be submitted to the Texas Building and
24 Procurement Commission and that a concurrent resolution

1 authorizing the designation be passed by the legislature and signed
2 by the governor; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Colombo was an esteemed citizen of this state
4 and his achievements in the face of adversity provide inspiration
5 to all Texans; the naming of the natatorium at the Texas School for
6 the Deaf in Austin in his honor would provide a fitting opportunity
7 for all Texans to pay tribute to LeRoy Colombo; now, therefore, be
8 it

9 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas
10 hereby approve and authorize the naming of the natatorium at the
11 Texas School for the Deaf in Austin the LeRoy Colombo Swim Center;
12 and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the secretary of state forward an official
14 copy of this resolution to the executive director of the Texas
15 Building and Procurement Commission.