

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 355

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to pay tribute to Bob Lanier, the former mayor of Houston, on the grand occasion of his 80th birthday; and

WHEREAS, Born in Baytown on March 10, 1925, Bob Lanier attended the University of New Mexico and served in the navy during World War II before earning a law degree with highest honors from The University of Texas School of Law in 1949; he had successful careers in law, banking, and real estate prior to taking public office; and

WHEREAS, He served for four years as chairman of the Texas Highway Commission and rallied support for the Harris County Toll Road Authority; he was chairman of the Houston Metropolitan Transit Authority and was an advisor to five Houston mayors; and

WHEREAS, Bob was first elected Houston mayor in 1991; he was reelected in 1993 with 91 percent of the vote; he would go on to win a third two-year term and earn a reputation as one of the most popular mayors in Houston's history; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Lanier's many accomplishments for the City of Houston include adding 655 police officers in his first 90 days in office, overseeing the rebuilding of neighborhoods, chairing the 1996 campaign for voter approval of new baseball and football stadiums, improving the city's finances, and successfully defending the city's affirmative action program; and

WHEREAS, Under his leadership, Houston rose from the wreckage of the oil bust of the 1980s to develop one of the nation's fastest-growing economies and to be one of its most demographically diverse cities; and

WHEREAS, He was named one of the three top Texas mayors of the 20th century by *Texas Monthly* magazine and has been compared to such renowned mayors as Richard Daley and Fiorello LaGuardia; he has been praised by former President Bill Clinton and by President George W. Bush; and

WHEREAS, Since leaving office, Mayor Lanier has continued to work diligently on behalf of the City of Houston; he established the Lanier Public Policy Conferences at the University of Houston and participates in various civic, academic, and political activities; and

WHEREAS, He has earned widespread acclaim for his outstanding services in Houston and this state; a few of his awards include the Hubert Humphrey Civil Rights Award, the Leadership Houston Distinguished Service Award, the National Auto Dealers' Award, and the Bond Market Association's Distinguished Public Service Award; with his wife, Elyse, he won two national awards for cleanup, environment, and beautification; and

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WHEREAS, Known as a charismatic public leader and a wise and devoted family man, Bob Lanier has had a positive and enduring impact on the lives of Houstonians and the citizens of this state; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby recognize Bob Lanier as a treasured citizen of Houston and the Lone Star State and extend best wishes to him for a joyful and memorable 80th birthday celebration; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him as a memento of this special day in his life and as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Whitmire

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 9, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate