

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 724**

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Robert S. Braden, who is being inducted posthumously into the Texas Transportation Hall of Honor by the Texas Transportation Institute on May 3, 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, Born August 2, 1931, Bob Braden grew up in the Texas Panhandle, where he developed his love for the simplicity and beauty of nature and an ability to see beyond the ordinary that would eventually lead to his career in engineering and his avocation as a talented photographer; and

**WHEREAS**, After earning a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering at The University of Texas at Austin and a master's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Bob moved to Houston and joined the consulting firm of Freese, Nichols, Turner and Collie; and

**WHEREAS**, When Bob retired 35 years later, the firm had become Turner Collie & Braden and had grown from a staff of 27 in 1955 to over 300; his foresight, commitment, and positive outlook had not only provided a catalyst for his firm, but for the city of Houston as well; and

**WHEREAS**, A man of unique vision who was noted for his civil engineering expertise, Bob Braden played a major role in fighting Houston's traffic congestion by using alternative funding options to accelerate the implementation of transportation projects which led to the creation of the Harris County Toll Road Authority and of the Grand Parkway Transportation Corporation; and

**WHEREAS**, Bob received many honors during his lifetime, including the Daniel W. Meade Prize from the American Society of Civil Engineers; he was named a Distinguished Graduate of the College of Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin; and

**WHEREAS**, An ardent outdoorsman and conservationist, Bob was a renowned photographer and bird-watcher, and he devoted himself tirelessly to the efforts of the Nature Conservancy of Texas, helping to preserve valuable wildlife habitat; he was the author of three books on wildlife and the outdoors, including *As I Look Back*; and

**WHEREAS**, A man of expansive interests and achievements, he believed it was the duty of an engineer to provide society with an improved environment, and he lived that belief by his implementation of major infrastructure improvements in our state's largest city; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 79th Legislature, hereby celebrate the life and achievements of Robert S. Braden; and, be it further

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**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for the members of the Braden family as an expression of esteem and deepest respect from the Texas Senate.

Lindsay

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 29, 2005.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate