

By: Woolley

H.R. No. 582

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A businessman who excelled in many fields and who  
2 was a highly respected community leader in Houston, William James  
3 Miller passed away on July 18, 2006, at age 78; and

4           WHEREAS, Born March 17, 1928, Bill Miller grew up in Houston  
5 and served his country as a paratrooper in the U.S. Army's 11th  
6 Airborne Division, which occupied Japan in World War II; following  
7 his discharge, he earned a bachelor's degree in chemical  
8 engineering from Texas A&M University then moved to Massachusetts  
9 to attend the Harvard Business School, graduating with a master's  
10 degree in 1953; and

11           WHEREAS, Returning to Houston with his wife, the former Mary  
12 Catherine Farrington, and their children, Mr. Miller began a  
13 business career that saw him assume a leadership role in a number of  
14 companies; in the energy services industry, he founded Miller Oil  
15 and Gas, which he directed for the rest of his life, and he was  
16 president of Houston Engineers, Inc., which developed the Hydra-Jar  
17 tool used in oil drilling; applying his expertise to the banking and  
18 insurance sector, he became president of the Lawrence Ilfrey  
19 Insurance Company, chaired the founding board of the Bank of  
20 Tanglewood, which later became the Bank of Texas, and was a board  
21 member for University State Bank and for Tanglewood Bank, which is  
22 now Northern Trust Bank; and

23           WHEREAS, The interests of this notable entrepreneur also  
24 extended to real estate development; during his 30-year tenure as

1 president of the Tanglewood Corporation, he oversaw the creation of  
2 several business and residential complexes in Houston's Tanglewood  
3 neighborhood; he was also a driving force in the growth of Uptown  
4 Houston, serving as the first president of the improvement district  
5 that administered the area and acting as chair of the Uptown Houston  
6 Association; and

7 WHEREAS, A prominent figure in civic and religious affairs,  
8 he was active in numerous organizations, including the Kiwanis Club  
9 of Downtown Houston, the Houston Child Guidance Center, and the  
10 Texas Medical Center Library, and was a member of the vestries of  
11 Saint John the Divine Episcopal Church and Saint Martin's Episcopal  
12 Church; devoted to his wife, children, and grandchildren, Mr.  
13 Miller frequently brought the family together for boating and  
14 skiing excursions, and he also enjoyed tennis, which he regularly  
15 played with a group of close friends; and

16 WHEREAS, With a record of achievement that distinguishes him  
17 as a business leader of great talent and wide-ranging abilities,  
18 Bill Miller made a significant contribution to the economic  
19 prosperity of the Lone Star State, and his visionary endeavors  
20 contributed to Houston's growth over the past half-century; now,  
21 therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
23 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of William James Miller  
24 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his  
25 wife, Mary Catherine Miller; to his children, William Farrington  
26 Miller, Catherine Michelle Miller Shedd and her husband, Clifford  
27 Ernest Shedd III, James Giddings Miller and his wife, Amy Henderson

1 Miller, and Kendall Farrington Miller and his wife, Cynthia  
2 Marshall Miller; to his grandchildren, William Farrington Miller  
3 II, Catherine Whitney Lorene Miller, Travis William Shedd, Daniel  
4 Oliver Shedd, Austin Truett Miller, Marshall Giddings Miller, and  
5 Weston Alan Miller; to his step-grandchildren, James  
6 Hazeltine-Shedd, Robert John Hazeltine-Shedd, and Kyle Dalton  
7 Pence; and to his many other relatives and friends; and, be it  
8 further

9         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
10 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
11 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of William  
12 James Miller.