

By: McCall

H.R. No. 1275

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The citizens of Texas lost a greatly admired
2 businessman, philanthropist, and patron of the arts with the
3 passing of Raymond D. Nasher of Dallas on March 16, 2007; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Boston in 1921, Raymond Nasher was the son of
5 European immigrants, who encouraged his interest in the arts from
6 an early age; he enjoyed piano lessons at a branch of the Juilliard
7 School of Music while growing up in New York, as his parents strove
8 to provide him with opportunities unavailable to them in their own
9 youth; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Nasher graduated with honors from Duke
11 University and went on to serve his country as a United States Navy
12 lieutenant during World War II; he later earned a master's degree in
13 economics from Boston University and in 1948, he met the love of his
14 life, Patsy Rabinowitz; the two were soon married and in 1950, they
15 settled in her hometown of Dallas; and

16 WHEREAS, A prominent residential and commercial real estate
17 developer, he oversaw the establishment of one of the most
18 successful business ventures in the Lone Star State; NorthPark
19 Center was opened in 1965, and it thrived thanks to the vision of
20 Raymond Nasher; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1967, Mrs. Nasher gave her husband his first
22 major sculpture, a Jean Arp torso, and her thoughtful gift sparked a
23 passion that would shape the remainder of his life as well as the
24 landscape of the city of Dallas; and

1 WHEREAS, Together with his wife, Mr. Nasher developed what is
2 widely regarded as the most important private collection of modern
3 sculpture in the world; long committed to sharing these treasures
4 with the public, he commissioned two acclaimed design
5 professionals, architect Renzo Piano and landscape architect Peter
6 Walker, to create a state-of-the-art museum featuring superb indoor
7 galleries and a stunning outdoor sculpture garden; and

8 WHEREAS, The Nasher Sculpture Center was opened in October
9 2003; situated on a prominent 2.4-acre site across from the Dallas
10 Museum of Art, the collection features more than 300 works by such
11 notable artists as Alexander Calder, Roy Lichtenstein, Henri
12 Matisse, and Pablo Picasso; and

13 WHEREAS, In addition to his work with the Nasher Center, this
14 esteemed Texan advised the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice,
15 Italy, on the design of its new sculpture garden, made regular loans
16 to the National Gallery, and contributed \$7.5 million toward a
17 museum at his alma mater, Duke University; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Nasher's expertise and enthusiasm were
19 renowned, and he was named to the President's Committee on the Arts
20 and Humanities by President George H. W. Bush, President Bill
21 Clinton, and President George W. Bush; the founder of the Dallas
22 Business Committee for the Arts, he further shared his time with the
23 board of the Dallas Museum of Art, the Dallas Opera, the Dallas
24 Symphony Orchestra, the Dallas Theater Center, Ballet Dallas, and
25 the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth; moreover, he served on the
26 International Council of the Tate Gallery in London and the
27 National Council of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco; and

1 WHEREAS, A dedicated supporter of governmental affairs as
2 well, he served the Lyndon B. Johnson administration as chair of the
3 National Commission of Urban Development, executive director of the
4 White House Conference on International Cooperation, a member of
5 the United States-German Cooperative Delegation, and U.S. delegate
6 to the General Assembly of the United Nations; in later years, he
7 was a member of the Council on Foreign Relations on the National
8 Council of the United Nations Association of the USA; and

9 WHEREAS, His interest in politics and civic engagement led
10 him to establish the Nasher Forum, a lecture series that addresses
11 compelling, contemporary social and ethical issues, aiming to
12 stimulate thought, debate, and action; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Nasher's remarkable life was shaped by a love of
14 beauty and a desire to enhance an appreciation of artistic
15 expression among all members of society; his enduring gift to this
16 world is the preservation and presentation of forms and
17 constructions that mirror the human condition, evoke passionate
18 response, and stir the soul; although he will be profoundly missed
19 by family and friends, Raymond Nasher leaves behind an exceptional
20 legacy of good works that will benefit generations of Texans for
21 years to come; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
23 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Raymond D. Nasher and
24 extend sincere sympathy to his daughters, Andrea, Joanie, and Nancy
25 Nasher, to his three grandchildren, and to his many friends and
26 admirers around the world; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
2 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Raymond D.
3 Nasher.