

By: Branch

H.R. No. 1332

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of a remarkable figure in the annals of
2 American business drew to a close on January 14, 2009, with the
3 death of legendary developer Trammell Crow at the age of 94; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Dallas on June 10, 1914, Mr. Crow grew up in
5 humble circumstances, one of eight children of a bookkeeper; he
6 began taking odd jobs as an enterprising 10-year-old and later
7 helped his family through the Depression; after graduating from
8 Woodrow Wilson High School in 1932, he worked in a bank and took
9 night classes, becoming a teller and then studying accounting at
10 Southern Methodist University; he enlisted in the U.S. Navy during
11 World War II, serving as an auditor, and attained the rank of
12 commander; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Crow demonstrated bold vision with his first
14 real estate deal in 1948, pioneering the practice of speculative
15 building; he constructed a warehouse for the Rayovac Company and
16 added extra space, for which he later found a second tenant; his
17 acumen soon made him a major industrial developer in his hometown;
18 he built more than 50 warehouses and sculpted the commercial
19 landscape with numerous projects, among them the city's largest
20 hotel, the world's biggest wholesale trade center, and the 50-story
21 Trammell Crow Center and five other downtown skyscrapers; and

22 WHEREAS, Ever the innovator, Mr. Crow featured an atrium in
23 the one-million-square-foot Dallas Trade Mart, and this concept was
24 widely adopted for myriad prominent office buildings and hotels

1 around the country; his revolutionary business model enabled him to
2 help shape the skylines of Atlanta, San Francisco, and dozens of
3 other U.S. cities; the World Trade Center transformed Dallas into a
4 center for international commerce, while the Peachtree Center
5 brought dramatic growth to Atlanta's downtown; one of the first
6 U.S. developers to operate globally, Mr. Crow expanded his empire
7 to reach from Europe and the Middle East to South America, the Far
8 East, and the South Pacific islands; and

9 WHEREAS, Although many real estate developers quickly sold
10 off their projects for fast profits, Mr. Crow retained ownership of
11 the properties he built over the long term, and he was known for his
12 responsiveness to the needs of his tenants; at one time, he had
13 interests in some 8,000 properties in more than 100 cities, and he
14 was named the biggest landlord in the United States by *Forbes*
15 magazine and *The Wall Street Journal*; he also founded the Wyndham
16 Hotel Company and developed its chain of first-class hotels; and

17 WHEREAS, This dynamic Texan stepped down as chief executive
18 of the Trammell Crow Company in 1977, but he remained involved in
19 deals for some time and was long active in politics, the arts, and
20 philanthropy; he and his wife supported many cultural organizations
21 and established the Trammell and Margaret Crow Collection of Asian
22 Art in 1998, leaving an indelible imprint on the Dallas Arts
23 District, and donated funds for construction of a business school
24 building at Southern Methodist University; moreover, Mr. Crow
25 created the National Tree Trust and turned the family farm in East
26 Texas into a tree nursery; and

27 WHEREAS, A mentor to countless real estate magnates and

1 successful executives, Mr. Crow was a devoted family man and loyal
2 friend as well; members of his circle, which included business
3 titans and presidents, admired his wit, good humor, and optimism,
4 and he will long be remembered not only as a giant of commerce, but
5 also as a man of uncommon generosity and sterling character; now,
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
8 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Trammell Crow and
9 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife of
10 66 years, Margaret Crow; to his children, Robert, Howard, Harlan,
11 and Stuart Crow, Trammell S. Crow, and Lucy Billingsley; to his 16
12 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren; and to his other relatives
13 and friends; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
16 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Trammell
17 Crow.