

By: Smith of Harris

H.R. No. 2857

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends are mourning the loss of attorney
2 and civic leader Robert L. Gillette of Baytown, who died on May 8,
3 2009, at the age of 92; and

4 WHEREAS, Robert Gillette was born in Michigan in 1916 to
5 Horace Bernard Gillette and Helen Lowery Gillette; when he was 10,
6 his family relocated to Houston, and he went on to graduate from San
7 Jacinto High School and The University of Texas; and

8 WHEREAS, While working as a clerk at the Humble Oil Company,
9 Mr. Gillette earned a law degree from the South Texas College of
10 Law; around that time, he met and married the former Sue Alexander,
11 with whom he raised three children and shared a fulfilling marriage
12 for 67 years; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Gillette answered his nation's call to duty
14 during World War II, serving as a judge advocate in the U.S. Army
15 Air Corps, and he and his family later settled in Baytown, where he
16 joined the law firm that eventually became Reid, Strickland and
17 Gillette; specializing in real estate law, he became an expert in
18 processing G.I. home loans for returning veterans, and he and his
19 partners established Bay Title Company to facilitate this work; and

20 WHEREAS, For more than six decades, Mr. Gillette was a
21 leading member of his community; he served as president of the
22 Baytown Chamber of Commerce, the Lee College Foundation, and the
23 Baytown Area Water Authority, and he was a member of the Lions Club
24 and the Rotary Club; moreover, he was a longtime champion of Little

1 League baseball; and

2 WHEREAS, In 1987, Mr. Gillette was appointed as a
3 commissioner of the Port of Houston Authority and, over the course
4 of a 12-year tenure, he played a vital role in securing federal
5 funding to deepen and widen the Houston Ship Channel; he also
6 enjoyed a personal connection to the region's waterways as an avid
7 boater and as a longtime resident of a house on Burnet Bay; and

8 WHEREAS, Robert Gillette contributed significantly to
9 Baytown and Harris County, and memories of his dedication and
10 generosity will not soon be forgotten by all who were privileged to
11 share in the richness of his life; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
13 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Robert L. Gillette and
14 extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his
15 children, John Gillette and his wife, Diane, Michael Gillette and
16 his wife, LeAnn, and Jane Riggs and her husband, Bruce; to his
17 grandchildren, Leigh Heister and her husband, Kurt, Stephanie Rogas
18 and her husband, Keith, Robert Riggs, John Riggs, Edward Riggs and
19 his wife, Michelle, Rob Gillette and his wife, Anna, Kenneth
20 Gillette, and David Gillette; to his great-grandchildren, Lauren,
21 Stephen, and Sarah Rogas and Meghan, Katherine, Benjamin, and
22 Madeline Heister; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it
23 further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
26 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Robert L.
27 Gillette.