

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 994

In Memory
of
Trammell Crow

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Ever the innovator, Mr. Crow featured an atrium in the one-million-square-foot Dallas Trade Mart, and this concept was widely adopted for myriad prominent office buildings and hotels around the country; his revolutionary business model enabled him to help shape the skylines of Atlanta, San Francisco, and dozens of other United States cities; the World Trade Center transformed Dallas into a center for international commerce, while the Peachtree Center brought dramatic growth to Atlanta's downtown; one of the first United States developers to operate globally, Mr. Crow expanded his empire to reach from Europe and the Middle East to South America, the Far East, and the South Pacific islands; and

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

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

WHEREAS, A mentor to countless real estate magnates and successful executives, Mr. Crow was a devoted family man and loyal friend as well; members of his circle, which included business titans and presidents, admired his wit, good humor, and optimism, and he will long be remembered not only as a giant of commerce, but also as a man of uncommon generosity and sterling character; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the life of Trammell Crow and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife of 66 years, Margaret Crow; to his children, Robert, Howard, Harlan, and Stuart Crow, Trammell S. Crow, and Lucy Billingsley; to his 16 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Trammell Crow.

Carona

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 23, 2009, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate