

By: Vo

H.R. No. 248

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, July 31, 2013, marks the 60th wedding anniversary of
2 Saoroth and Yani Keo of Houston, and this joyous event provides a
3 fitting opportunity to reflect on their remarkable journey together
4 as husband and wife; and

5 WHEREAS, Natives of Cambodia, Saoroth Keo and the former Yani
6 Rose Yos were brought together by their families; their fathers,
7 both judges, had agreed to a union between their children before
8 Mrs. Keo was even born, and Mr. Keo eventually chose the bold and
9 strong-willed Yani over her more serene older sister; they were
10 joined in matrimony in Phnom Penh in 1953, when Mrs. Keo was just
11 15, but contrary to tradition, she continued her education even
12 after the birth of their first child; and

13 WHEREAS, Having studied engineering in Paris, Mr. Keo became
14 director of Cambodia's railroads; Mrs. Keo honed her linguistic
15 skills through extensive travel abroad and became an interpreter
16 for the wife of the president, but political turmoil began to
17 overwhelm the country; when refugees streamed into Phnom Penh, Mrs.
18 Keo helped organize a volunteer aid group; her humanitarian efforts
19 and international connections made her a target of Khmer Rouge
20 rebels, and in April 1975, the couple was forced to flee; still
21 hoping to serve his country, Mr. Keo subsequently tried to return,
22 but the situation had grown even more desperate; for five terrible
23 months, the whirlwind of political events kept the couple apart,
24 and Mr. Keo was believed to have been killed until Mrs. Keo learned

1 with relief that he had been sent to Houston under the sponsorship
2 of Catholic Charities; and

3 WHEREAS, The Keos began a new life together in Texas, where
4 Mr. Keo learned English while working as a clerk at AE Services; his
5 employers discovered he was a skilled draftsman and engineer, and
6 he ultimately retired as a partner in the company; Mrs. Keo
7 continued her philanthropy as a cofounder of the Refugee Services
8 Alliance, which expanded its mission to provide aid to all
9 immigrants; today, it is known as the Alliance for Multicultural
10 Community Services; Mrs. Keo also helped establish the Texas
11 Cambodian Temple of Houston and served as president of the
12 Cambodian Farm Project and Khmer Village; moreover, she has served
13 on the City of Houston Advisory Council of International
14 Communities and chaired the Information Group for Asian American
15 Rights; the Keos have personally sponsored many Cambodian refugees
16 through the years; and

17 WHEREAS, Devoted to their family, Mr. and Mrs. Keo take great
18 pride in their four children, Rothmoni, Soudeth, Nanda, and Sorith
19 Keo, as well as their 10 cherished grandchildren, Michael, Toni,
20 Patrick, Mitchell, and Matthew Keo, Christopher and Tiffani Kou,
21 Jason and Nancy Chamroeun, and Anand Pok; and

22 WHEREAS, The 60 years of marriage that Mr. and Mrs. Keo have
23 shared is eloquent affirmation of the meaning of love and
24 commitment, and their enduring union is an inspiration to all who
25 know them; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
27 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby congratulate Saoroth and

1 Yani Rose Keo on their 60th wedding anniversary and extend sincere
2 best wishes for continued happiness; and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
4 prepared for Mr. and Mrs. Keo as an expression of high regard by the
5 Texas House of Representatives.