

By: Price

H.R. No. 225

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Amarillo lost a respected businessman,  
2 notable benefactor, and admired native son with the death of Bill  
3 Ware on March 22, 2012, at the age of 63; and

4 WHEREAS, Born into a prominent local banking family, Mr. Ware  
5 distinguished himself from an early age through his commitment to  
6 excellence; he was a star tennis player at Amarillo High School and  
7 achieved a number two state ranking in doubles; named Player of the  
8 Year for 1966 by the Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame, he won an  
9 athletic scholarship to Southern Methodist University, where he  
10 completed his bachelor's degree in 1971; and

11 WHEREAS, This dynamic Texan worked briefly in Dallas before  
12 joining his brother, Richard, as a member of the fourth generation  
13 of the Ware family to lead the Amarillo National Bank; with  
14 characteristic vision, Mr. Ware helped establish the first branch  
15 bank in Texas in 1987, and he was also instrumental in designing  
16 what was one of the largest drive-up banking plazas in the country  
17 at that time; he imbued marketing campaigns with his own wry humor,  
18 creating a memorable series of TV commercials that featured an  
19 out-of-town banker who habitually mispronounced the word  
20 "Amarillo"; in 1999, *Texas Monthly* magazine named him along with  
21 his brother and his father as the "Texas Bankers of the Century";  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, A proud champion of his hometown, Mr. Ware  
24 generously supported local charities and beautification efforts,

1 and he tirelessly promoted Amarillo as an attractive place to live  
2 and work; he lobbied for commercial billboard restrictions and  
3 provided the design and substantial funding for signs that welcome  
4 visitors arriving on Interstate 40; moreover, he played a key role  
5 in the construction of the Amarillo National Tennis Center, and he  
6 was an active booster of the minor league baseball team; Mr. Ware  
7 served on the board of directors of numerous civic groups and  
8 business organizations and was a trustee of the Ware Foundation,  
9 which benefits youth sports and health care initiatives; his civic  
10 involvement also extended to politics, and he frequently campaigned  
11 for local office seekers by exhorting passersby through a bullhorn  
12 while driving a truck painted to resemble the Texas flag; and

13 WHEREAS, Bill Ware was known for his warmth and lack of  
14 pretension as well as for his accomplishments, and he inspired  
15 others through his sincere appreciation for the joys of each day;  
16 although he will be greatly missed by all who were fortunate enough  
17 to know him, they will long remember his love for a community that  
18 will continue to reflect his contributions in the years to come;  
19 now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Bill Ware and extend  
22 deepest sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife, Paige;  
23 to his children, B. D. Ware, Lizzie Mason and her husband, Brian,  
24 Savannah Singleton and her husband, Brian, and Tol Ware and his  
25 wife, Sloane; to his father, Tol; to his brother, Richard; and to  
26 his seven grandchildren, other relatives, and many friends; and, be  
27 it further

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1           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
2 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
3 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Bill Ware.