

By: Goldman

H.R. No. 161

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The citizens of Fort Worth lost an esteemed public
2 servant with the passing of former mayor Bob Bolen on January 6,
3 2014, at the age of 87; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Chicago on April 10, 1926, Robert Eugene
5 Bolen was the son of Milford and Bee Bolen; he briefly attended
6 Texas A&M University before answering his nation's call to duty
7 during World War II by enlisting in the U.S. Navy and serving as a
8 gunnery officer aboard the USS *Iowa*; honorably discharged in 1946,
9 he subsequently reenrolled at TAMU, where he received a bachelor's
10 degree in business administration in 1948; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Bolen began his career by working for McCrory
12 Stores, following in the footsteps of his father, a longtime
13 manager with the company; while employed at a store in Syracuse, New
14 York, he met Frances Ciborowski, and the two later married; through
15 the years, they were blessed with a treasured family of six
16 children; and

17 WHEREAS, After Mr. Bolen and his family settled in Fort
18 Worth, he left McCrory to open a shop that sold toys and bicycles,
19 and he later expanded his operation to include 20 Hallmark card
20 stores across the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and in San Antonio;
21 in 1979, he decided to pursue public office and was elected as the
22 District 6 representative on the Fort Worth City Council; he
23 quickly garnered the respect of his constituents and colleagues,
24 and voters chose him as the city's mayor in a special election in

1 1982; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Bolen went on to distinguish himself during a
3 nine-year tenure in that office, becoming the city's
4 longest-serving mayor; he compiled an impressive list of
5 accomplishments, overseeing the development of Fort Worth Alliance
6 Airport and the American Airlines maintenance facility, the
7 completion of the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing building,
8 and the arrival of such new companies as Burlington Northern and The
9 University of Texas at Arlington Advanced Robotics Research
10 Institute; moreover, he partnered with prominent figures in the
11 region to revitalize the downtown area with the addition of the
12 Tandy Center and Sundance Square and the refurbishment of the Hotel
13 Texas and General Worth Square; and

14 WHEREAS, Other highlights of his years in office included the
15 establishment of the Fort Worth Transportation Authority, the
16 Dallas/Fort Worth International Trade Resource Center, and the
17 Metroplex High Technology Education Task Force; renowned as the
18 "people's mayor," he demonstrated remarkable dedication to his
19 adopted hometown and consistently worked more than 60 hours a week
20 to carry forth his ideal that he should leave the city an even
21 better place than he found it; and

22 WHEREAS, In addition to the duties of his office, Mr. Bolen
23 served as the president of the Texas Municipal League in 1987, and
24 he was elected as a member of the board for the National League of
25 Cities in 1985, becoming that body's president in 1990; after
26 leaving office in 1991, he held membership on advisory boards and
27 city committees, and he joined Texas Christian University as a

1 senior advisor to the chancellor and as a mentor for the
2 institution's entrepreneur program; this visionary civic leader
3 was conferred honorary doctorates in public service from the
4 University of North Texas and TCU, as well as an honorary doctorate
5 of humanities from Texas Wesleyan University; and

6 WHEREAS, Though it is impossible to gauge the full effect of
7 one man's life, some individuals leave their unmistakable mark on
8 the world as they move through it, and Bob Bolen's contributions
9 will long resonate in the Fort Worth community and in the lives of
10 all who knew him; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
12 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Bob Bolen and extend
13 sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his wife, Fran;
14 to his daughter, Terrie Manning and her husband, David; to his sons,
15 Randy Bolen and his wife, Pam, and Ron Bolen; to his foster son, Don
16 Cosby and his wife, Kathryn; to his grandchildren, Jeff Bolen, Chad
17 Bolen, Shannon Young, Matthew Manning, Jamie Manning, Tucker Cosby,
18 and Anne Claire Cosby; to his great-grandchildren, Brady, Brennan,
19 Charlie, and Robert Walter; to his niece, Sandy Bolen; to his
20 nephew, Brad Bolen; and to his other relatives and many friends;
21 and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
24 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Bob Bolen.