

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of an admired civic leader drew to a close
2 with the passing of Earl Charles Lairson of Houston on April 2,
3 2015, at the age of 87; and

4 WHEREAS, Born and raised on a farm in Pottawatomie County,
5 Oklahoma, Mr. Lairson graduated from Tecumseh High School as
6 valedictorian of his class; he joined the United States Army at the
7 age of 17, as World War II was drawing to a close, and he
8 subsequently served for two years in the Oklahoma Air National
9 Guard; while completing his bachelor's degree in accounting at the
10 University of Oklahoma, he enrolled in ROTC, and he achieved the
11 rank of first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Lairson settled in Houston and was employed by
13 Ernst & Ernst; in 1970, he founded his own CPA firm, Earl Lairson
14 and Company, which became Null-Lairson following a merger in 1997;
15 dedicated to the advancement of his profession, he was a charter
16 member of the National Conference of CPA Practitioners, and he
17 served on its board and as president of its Houston Chapter; he was
18 also a founding member of the Texas Association of CPAs, and during
19 two terms on the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy, he served
20 for a year as chair; moreover, he was a life member of many CPA
21 organizations, among them the American Institute of CPAs and the
22 Texas Society of CPAs; and

23 WHEREAS, Active in the Republican Party from 1960 onward,
24 Mr. Lairson worked on the Draft Goldwater campaign and on the first

1 congressional campaign of George H. W. Bush; he served as a precinct
2 chair for 35 years and as a member of the Texas State Republican
3 Executive Committee for a decade; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Lairson further benefited his community through
5 his involvement in numerous organizations; he was a director of the
6 Houston Club and chair of its finance committee, and he was a
7 charter member of the Greater Heights Chamber of Commerce and of the
8 Greater Houston Pachyderm Club; the founding president of the
9 Pachyderm Club of Northwest Houston, he received the group's Tough
10 Tusk Award; for many years, he served as president and program chair
11 of the Northwest Executive Round Table, and he was a charter member
12 and vice president of the Magic Circle Exchange Club of Houston; he
13 was also a trustee of the Educational Advancement Foundation and a
14 longtime advisory board member and accountant for the Free
15 Enterprise Institute; and

16 WHEREAS, Deeply committed to serving others, Mr. Lairson was
17 a life member of the American Legion and an endowed member of the
18 Oak Forest Masonic Lodge No. 1398, and he belonged to Arabia Temple
19 Shriners, Tranquility Lodge 2000, the Sam Houston Hall of Fame,
20 Ruthven Commandery No. 2, the Washington Chapter of Royal Arch
21 Masons, and Houston Council No. 1; he was an active member of First
22 Methodist Church of Houston as well, and he served as a Sunday
23 school teacher and as a member of the administrative board and the
24 finance and audit committees; in 2008, he joined Candlelight Church
25 of Christ, which he served as a trustee; and

26 WHEREAS, Above all, Mr. Lairson was devoted to his wife,
27 Virginia, with whom he shared 63 years, and their cherished family;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, Earl Lairson gave generously of his time and talents
3 to better his community, and he leaves behind a record of service
4 that his loved ones can remember with pride; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
6 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Earl Charles Lairson
7 and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his
8 wife, Virginia Lou Cagle Lairson; to his children, Karen Hurst and
9 her husband, Randy, Mark Earl Lairson, Eric Charles Lairson, and
10 Dawn Welch and her husband, David; to his grandchildren, Erin
11 Hencey and her husband, Edward, Steven Hurst and his wife,
12 Stephanie, Dr. Candace Powell and her husband, Erik, William Wells
13 III, Carrie Hurst, Michael Earl Hurst and his wife, Grace, and
14 Hannah, Josh, and Rachel Welch; to his great-grandchildren, Erik
15 and Emily Hencey, Carson, Wyatt, and Claire Powell, and Steven,
16 Sophia, and Kate Hurst; to his sisters, Earline Ellen Childers and
17 Rosie Brightwell; and to his many other relatives and friends; and,
18 be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
21 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Earl
22 Charles Lairson.

Bohac

H.R. No. 2290

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2290 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 21, 2015.

Chief Clerk of the House