

By: Bohac

H.R. No. 2295

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Jack Sawtelle Blanton, a prominent Houston oil
2 executive and philanthropist, passed away on December 28, 2013, at
3 the age of 86; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Louise Wynn and William Neal Blanton,
5 Jack Blanton was born on December 7, 1927, in Shreveport,
6 Louisiana; when he was two, the family moved to Houston, where he
7 graduated from Lamar High School; he went on to attend The
8 University of Texas and received a degree in history in 1947 and a
9 bachelor of laws degree three years later; while at UT, he competed
10 in tennis, and the sport proved to be a lifelong passion for him;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Blanton began working for the Scurlock Oil
13 Company in 1950 and quickly rose through the ranks to become head of
14 the company in 1958; he held the office of president and CEO for a
15 quarter-century and subsequently served Scurlock as chair before
16 retiring in 1988; and

17 WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Mr. Blanton was dedicated to
18 the city of Houston and served on the boards of many businesses and
19 institutions, including Texas Commerce Bank, Southwestern Bell
20 Telephone, MD Anderson Cancer Center, and Houston Methodist
21 Hospital, where he was a life trustee; he also chaired the Greater
22 Houston Partnership, a consortium of community-minded business
23 leaders, and he devoted time and resources to a number of charitable
24 groups, including the Scurlock Foundation, which he cofounded in

1 1954; from 1990 to 2003, he served as chair of the Houston
2 Endowment, which contributes to a broad spectrum of programs in
3 such areas as education, health care, and the arts, and over the
4 course of his tenure, he shepherded the endowment's growth, from
5 \$400 million to more than \$1 billion; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Blanton also remained loyal to his alma mater,
7 and he served on the UT Board of Regents for six years, including a
8 two-year term as chair; in addition, he served as chair of the LBJ
9 Foundation and as president of the Ex-Students' Association, and he
10 was recognized with a Distinguished Alumnus and a Santa Rita Award,
11 the highest accolade bestowed by the Board of Regents; the
12 university paid special tribute to this esteemed benefactor with
13 the naming of the Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art in his honor in 1997;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, For five decades, Mr. Blanton enjoyed the love and
16 support of his wife, Laura Lee Scurlock, and they were blessed with
17 three children, Elizabeth, Jack, and Eddy; after Mrs. Blanton's
18 passing, Mr. Blanton was fortunate enough to find love again and he
19 married Cindy Davis; following her death, he met Ginger Renfroe at
20 his church, St. Luke's United Methodist, and the couple married in
21 2002; over the course of more than a decade together, they shared a
22 profound commitment to their family, their faith, and their
23 community; and

24 WHEREAS, Jack Blanton earned great respect and admiration for
25 his business acumen and civic leadership, as well as for his
26 generosity in sharing his success with institutions across the Lone
27 Star State, and he leaves behind a legacy that will resonate long

1 into the future; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
3 Legislature pay tribute to the memory of Jack Sawtelle Blanton and
4 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife,
5 Ginger Renfroe Blanton; to his children, Elizabeth Wareing and her
6 husband, Peter, Jack S. Blanton Jr. and his wife, Leslie, and Eddy
7 S. Blanton and his wife, Kelli; to his grandchildren and
8 great-grandchildren; and to his many other relatives and friends;
9 and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
11 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
12 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Jack S.
13 Blanton.