

By: Miller of Fort Bend

H.R. No. 2708

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends are mourning the loss of Sam
2 Bernard Raia Jr. of Sugar Land, who passed away on March 1, 2015, at
3 the age of 80; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Sam Raia Sr. and Mary Francis Raia, Sammy
5 Raia was born and raised in Houston and grew up with the company of
6 his brothers, Carl and Russell; he graduated from St. Thomas High
7 School and earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the
8 University of Houston before joining the U.S. Air Force Reserve;
9 while stationed at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, he was
10 known to hitchhike home to the Bayou City to enjoy his mother's
11 homemade pasta and ricotta; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Raia demonstrated an exceptional work ethic
13 throughout his life; at the age of 13, he got his first job at a
14 grocery store, and he later installed air conditioners and was
15 employed by the U.S. Postal Service; after working as a draftsman
16 at Fish Engineering, he joined the Gaido-Lingle Pipe Coating
17 Company in 1959, and he rose to the rank of executive vice president
18 of sales during his notable 42-year career with that business; he
19 also shared his time and expertise with the National Association of
20 Pipe Coating Applicators, which he served as president; and

21 WHEREAS, An engaged citizen and dedicated supporter of the
22 Fort Bend County Republican Party, Mr. Raia was active in many GOP
23 precinct, senatorial, and state conventions, and he was excited to
24 have the opportunity to attend the party's national convention in

1 1999; in recognition of his contributions, he was named an honorary
2 life member of the Spirit of Freedom Republican Women's Club; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Raia was a valued parishioner at St. Laurence
4 Catholic Church; in his leisure time, he enjoyed playing tennis and
5 golf, and he was a member and a past president of the Sugar Creek
6 Country Club; and

7 WHEREAS, Above all else, Mr. Raia was devoted to his loved
8 ones, including his wife, Terese, his children, Deborah, Sam,
9 Elizabeth, and Mary, and his grandchildren, Hannah, Regis, Scott,
10 Andrea, Zachary, Robert, Teresa, Corrine, and Melissa; and

11 WHEREAS, Sammy Raia lived a rich and purposeful life centered
12 around his family, his faith, and his community, and he will forever
13 be remembered with great admiration and affection by all who had the
14 good fortune to know him; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
16 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Sam Bernard Raia Jr.
17 and extend deepest sympathy to the members of his family: to his
18 wife, Terese Raia; to his children, Deborah Smith and her husband,
19 Rix, Sam B. Raia III and his wife, Mary Lynn, Elizabeth Backiel, and
20 Mary Margaret Giles and her husband, Doug; to his grandchildren,
21 Hannah Basel, Regis Giles, Scott Nunez, Andrea and Zachary Spruill,
22 Robert and Teresa Backiel, and Corrine and Melissa Smith; to his
23 brother, Russell; and to his other relatives and many friends; and,
24 be it further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
27 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Sammy Raia.