

By: Whitmire, et al.

S.C.R. No. 17

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The city of Houston lost a galvanizing leader with
3 the passing of former mayor Bob Lanier on December 20, 2014, at the
4 age of 89; and

5 WHEREAS, Born to Jesse and Sally Lanier on March 10, 1925,
6 Robert Clayton Lanier grew up in Baytown and served as a naval
7 officer during World War II; he attended the University of New
8 Mexico and subsequently earned a law degree from The University of
9 Texas at Austin; though he enjoyed successful careers in law,
10 banking, and real estate, he ultimately found himself drawn to
11 politics and public service; he chaired the Texas Highway
12 Commission from 1983 to 1987 and then led Houston's Metropolitan
13 Transit Authority for a year; and

14 WHEREAS, First elected mayor in 1991, Mr. Lanier was
15 reelected by an overwhelming majority in 1993 and again in 1995;
16 although the city's adoption of term limits precluded a fourth run
17 for the office, his fierce intelligence, deep knowledge of public
18 policy, and skillful coalition-building allowed him to effect
19 far-reaching changes over the course of his six-year tenure; he
20 fulfilled a campaign promise to increase police patrols and reduce
21 crime, and he made great strides in revitalizing the downtown area
22 and improving infrastructure in disadvantaged neighborhoods;
23 moreover, he was an unyielding champion of ethnic diversity, and
24 toward the end of his final term, he led a successful campaign to

1 save the city's affirmative action program for minority business
2 owners; and

3 WHEREAS, After leaving office, Mr. Lanier remained a force in
4 Houston politics and civic affairs; he hosted fund-raisers,
5 supported charities, and founded the Lanier Public Policy
6 Conference at the University of Houston; and

7 WHEREAS, Frequently recognized for his outstanding service
8 to Houston and to the State of Texas, Mr. Lanier received such
9 prestigious accolades as the Hubert Humphrey Civil Rights Award and
10 the Ben Taub Humanitarian Award; he was praised by former
11 presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, and *Texas Monthly*
12 magazine named him one of the top three Texas mayors of the 20th
13 century; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Lanier married Elizabeth Grant in 1954, and the
15 couple became the proud parents of five children; after being
16 widowed, Mr. Lanier exchanged wedding vows in 1984 with Elyse Bauer
17 and welcomed into his heart and home her two children; and

18 WHEREAS, A man of tremendous energy and ability, Bob Lanier
19 helped shape the destiny of a great American city through his
20 determination to enhance the quality of life for all its residents,
21 and his enormous contributions as a public servant and civic leader
22 will continue to resonate for years to come; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
24 hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable Bob Lanier and
25 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife,
26 Elyse Lanier; to his children, Robert Clayton Lanier Jr. and his
27 wife, Donna, John Frederic Lanier, Elizabeth Lanier Campbell, Susan

1 Holly Lanier, Scott Augustus Lanier, Courtney Lanier Sarofim and
2 her husband, Christopher, and Kevin Scott Robins and his wife,
3 Sara; to his grandchildren, Robert Clayton Lanier III, Carlton
4 Thomas Lanier, Brent Lanier Campbell, Judith Ann Lanier, Mary
5 Jessica Lanier, Robert Mitchell Lanier, Gillian Stude Sarofim,
6 Louisa Lanier Sarofim, Fayez Shalaby Sarofim II, Eva Elyse Robins,
7 and Rhett Ezekiel Robins; and to his other relatives and many
8 friends; and, be it further

9 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
10 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
11 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
12 Bob Lanier.