

By: Whitmire, et al.

S.C.R. No. 17

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

1 owners; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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