

By: Faircloth

H.R. No. 281

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Galveston community has lost a distinguished
2 civic leader with the passing of George Frederick Black on July 30,
3 2017, at the age of 70; and

4 WHEREAS, George Black was born on Galveston Island on June
5 30, 1947, to Peter Paul and Marcelle Gangl, and he was adopted at
6 birth by Ellis Julian and Alvenia Augusta Schmiech Black; he
7 graduated from Ball High School and attended Alvin Junior College
8 and Texas A&M University; and

9 WHEREAS, After beginning his career as a computer programmer
10 at First Hutchings-Sealy National Bank and American National
11 Insurance Company, Mr. Black went on to purchase several apartment
12 complexes, a Baskin-Robbins franchise, and a corner grocery store;
13 he later helped found the Robert Shields and Associates information
14 technology staffing firm, and after Mr. Shields died, Mr. Black
15 took over the business, expanding it into a new company, 3coast,
16 which he served as president and CEO until his death; and

17 WHEREAS, A proud lifelong resident of the island, Mr. Black
18 gave generously of his time and talents to his beloved community;
19 active in the Jaycees for 18 years, he served as a Jaycee
20 International Senator and won recognition as Most Outstanding Local
21 President in 1976; he was also president of the Kiwanis Club, a 32nd
22 degree Mason, and a member of the Galveston Scottish Rite; he served
23 on the City of Galveston's Charter Review Committee and on the
24 President's Cabinet and Institutional Audit Committee of The

1 University of Texas Medical Branch, and he was vice president of the
2 Community Arts Council and a 13-year member of the Galveston
3 College Board of Regents; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Black took particular pleasure in his 20-year
5 association with the Galveston Mardi Gras; he served as krewe
6 captain and King of Gambrinus in the Krewe of Gambrinus and as
7 marshal of the Krewe of Munchkins Parade and of the inaugural
8 Knights of Momus Grand Night Parade; his extensive contributions to
9 the festival were recognized with the George P. Mitchell Mardi Gras
10 Award in 2014; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Black was also a longtime leader in the Boy
12 Scouts of America, first as scoutmaster of his son's troop and then
13 as Island District chairman, member of the Bay Area Council,
14 Assistant National Boy Scout Jamboree Master, and Philmont Trek
15 Master; he earned one of scouting's highest honors, the Silver
16 Beaver Award, from the Bay Area Council; and

17 WHEREAS, Imbued with a strong religious faith, Mr. Black was
18 an active member of First Lutheran Church, where he played a vital
19 role in the congregation's annual Island Oktoberfest as general
20 chair and as chair for entertainment and sponsorships; he also
21 assisted with the church's capital campaigns, served as a trustee
22 for the endowment fund and as president of the vestry, and helped
23 establish the Fanfare! Lutheran Music Academy for underprivileged
24 young people; and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. Black was the devoted husband of Sherry Black,
26 his wife of more than 46 years, and the proud father of a son,
27 Joshua; as an adult, he sought out his birth family and discovered

1 that he had two brothers, Donal Gangl and David Baker, and two
2 sisters, Judy Kiker and Paula Yetter; he delighted in the time he
3 spent hunting and fishing with family and friends, and he and his
4 wife enjoyed traveling, especially to Australia, Mexico, Turkey,
5 Hawaii, and Canada; he held season tickets to the Houston Astros and
6 the Houston Texans, which he generously shared with his friends and
7 with local charities; and

8 WHEREAS, For most of his life, George Black wore a ring that
9 read BOI, for "Born on the Island"; the memory of his boundless
10 devotion to his community and his tireless efforts in its behalf
11 will forever illuminate the hearts of all who knew and loved him;
12 now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
14 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life of
15 George Frederick Black and extend heartfelt sympathy to the members
16 of his family and to all those who mourn his passing; and, be it
17 further

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