

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The city of Houston lost an admired philanthropist
2 and businessman with the death of James Lee Ketelsen on April 27,
3 2017, at the age of 86; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Davenport, Iowa, on November 14, 1930, Jim
5 Ketelsen was the son of Ernest and Helen Ketelsen; after graduating
6 from Northwestern University, he was commissioned as an officer in
7 the U.S. Navy and served aboard the USS *Hunt* during the Korean War;
8 he married Joan Velde and they became the parents of a son, James,
9 and a daughter, Lee; following the death of Mrs. Ketelsen, he was
10 fortunate to find love a second time with the former Kathryn Lloyd,
11 and they shared a fulfilling marriage that spanned 29 years; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Ketelsen began his career as a CPA in the
13 Chicago office of Price Waterhouse; in 1959, he was appointed
14 assistant comptroller of J. I. Case Company, and he rose to become
15 president when he was only 36 years old; after Case was acquired by
16 Tenneco, he was named CEO and chair and led the multi-industry
17 corporation until 1992; he became one of the first business
18 executives to fully recognize the importance of a healthy workforce
19 and built a state-of-the-art fitness center for employees;
20 moreover, he set an example of wellness as an avid runner, and he
21 initiated Tenneco's sponsorship of the Houston Marathon; and

22 WHEREAS, Deeply committed to the community, Mr. Ketelsen
23 gave employees paid time off for volunteerism, and he established
24 Project GRAD, a four-year scholarship program at Davis High School

1 that soon quadrupled its rate of college enrollment; following his
2 retirement, he and his wife Kathryn built on that success by
3 expanding Project GRAD to improve college readiness with a set of
4 comprehensive interventions in earlier grades; he then applied his
5 business acumen to the task of scaling up the initiative, and it
6 became an influential model that was adopted across the country;
7 the Houston Independent School District paid tribute to his efforts
8 in 2002 by opening James L. Ketelsen Elementary School, where the
9 children welcomed the frequent visits of their beloved "Mr. K.";
10 and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Ketelsen benefited higher education as a regent
12 of the University of Houston System and a trustee of Northwestern
13 University; he was a member of the Texas Business and Education
14 Coalition, the Texas Head Start Collaboration Task Force, and the
15 State Board of Education Task Force on Early Childhood and
16 Elementary Education, and he chaired the Texas 2000 State
17 Coordinating Team; in addition, he helped raise funds to build the
18 Wortham Theater, and he played a key role in the development of
19 Sesquicentennial Park; among numerous other leadership roles, he
20 was a trustee of the Houston Grand Opera Association and the Texas
21 Heart Institute; he also shared his expertise as a director of such
22 firms as Sara Lee Corporation, GTE Corporation, and J. P. Morgan &
23 Company; and

24 WHEREAS, Although Jim Ketelsen's death has brought great
25 sorrow to his loved ones, his remarkable record of civic engagement
26 will remain a source of inspiration, and his exceptional
27 contributions will continue to resonate for years to come; now,

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
3 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of James Ketelsen and
4 extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing; and, be it
5 further

6 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
7 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
8 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of James
9 Ketelsen.

Davis of Harris

Straus	Goldman	Oliverson
Allen	Gonzales of Williamson	Ortega
Alonzo	González of El Paso	Paddie
Alvarado	Gooden	Parker
Anchia	Guerra	Paul
Anderson of Dallas	Guillen	Perez
Anderson of McLennan	Gutierrez	Phelan
Arévalo	Hefner	Phillips
Ashby	Hernandez	Pickett
Bailes	Herrero	Price
Bell	Hinojosa	Raney
Bernal	Holland	Raymond
Biedermann	Howard	Reynolds
Blanco	Huberty	Rinaldi
Bohac	Hunter	Roberts
Bonnen of Brazoria	Isaac	Rodriguez of Bexar
Bonnen of Galveston	Israel	Rodriguez of Travis
Burkett	Johnson of Dallas	Romero, Jr.
Burns	Johnson of Harris	Rose
Burrows	Kacal	Sanford
Button	Keough	Schaefer
Cain	King of Hemphill	Schofield
Canales	King of Parker	Schubert
Capriglione	King of Uvalde	Shaheen
Clardy	Klick	Sheffield
Coleman	Koop	Shine
Collier	Krause	Simmons
Cook	Kuempel	Smithee
Cortez	Lambert	Springer
Cosper	Landgraf	Stephenson
Craddick	Lang	Stickland
Cyrier	Larson	Stucky
Dale	Laubenberg	Swanson
Darby	Leach	Thierry
Davis of Dallas	Longoria	Thompson of Brazoria
Davis of Harris	Lozano	Thompson of Harris
Dean	Lucio III	Tinderholt
Deshotel	Martinez	Turner
Dukes	Metcalf	Uresti
Dutton	Meyer	VanDeaver
Elkins	Miller	Villalba
Faircloth	Minjarez	Vo
Fallon	Moody	Walle
Farrar	Morrison	White
Flynn	Muñoz, Jr.	Wilson
Frank	Murphy	Workman
Frullo	Murr	Wray
Geren	Neave	Wu
Gervin-Hawkins	Nevárez	Zedler
Giddings	Oliveira	Zerwas

H.R. No. 2252

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2252 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 19, 2017.

Chief Clerk of the House