

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 608

WHEREAS, For many years, James and Leeshan Chuang Birney of Stone Mountain Properties have distinguished themselves through their success as entrepreneurs and as civic leaders in the Houston area; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from National Taiwan Normal University, Leeshan Chuang Birney earned a master's degree in business administration from New York University and then founded the Stone Mountain Properties real estate company; James Birney earned his master's degree in business administration from New York University as well, and he enjoyed a long and successful career on Wall Street as a founding partner of Furman, Selz, Mager, Dietz, and Birney, a brokerage and investment firm, before joining his wife in the family real estate business; in the decades Mr. and Mrs. Birney have worked together at Stone Mountain Properties, they have developed projects in Houston and New Jersey and built a portfolio worth more than \$100 million; and

WHEREAS, Throughout their careers, the Birneys have also given generously of their time and resources to a wide variety of institutions and community organizations; among the entities to benefit from their efforts are the Houston Housing Finance Corporation, the Asian American Business Council of the Asian Chamber of Commerce, the Chinese Community Center, the Global Federation of Chinese Business Women, the Planning Board of the City of Houston, and the Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Birney are also supporters of the Chinese American Relief Effort and the Joint Chinese College Alumni Association, which has named a music scholarship in their honor; in addition, they have provided funds for innumerable programs for disadvantaged young people, the elderly, and the disabled, and they actively promote leisure learning, literary seminars, arts exhibitions, and concerts; and

WHEREAS, The couple's many honors include the Outstanding Chinese Entrepreneur Award from Chinese21.com, the International Leadership Foundation's Regional Leadership Award, the Hua Kuan Award from the Global Federation of Chinese Business Women, the Yellow Rose of Texas award from the governor of Texas, the Corporate Impact Award from the Chinese Professional Club, and the President's Volunteer Service Award from President Barack Obama; and

WHEREAS, James and Leeshan Birney have furthered the prosperity and well-being of the Houston area through their business and philanthropic endeavors, and they are truly deserving of special recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 85th Legislature, hereby congratulate James and Leeshan Chuang Birney on the success of Stone Mountain Properties and commend them for their many years of community service and charitable giving; and, be it further

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RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for Mr. and Mrs. Birney as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Bettencourt

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 12, 2017.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate