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By:  Bucy H.R. No. 998

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Family and friends are mourning the loss of Donald Anthony Garritano of Cedar Park, who passed away on February 16, 2019, at the age of 67; and

WHEREAS, The son of Anthony and Ann Garritano, Don Garritano was born in Philadelphia on January 26, 1952; he grew up in his hometown and in Radnor, Pennsylvania, with the companionship of three siblings, Michael, Marybeth, and Carolyn; while a student at Villanova University, he met his future wife, Maria Talamo, and they married at their alma mater on February 21, 1981; they were blessed with a daughter, Gina, and two sons, Victor and Giancarlo; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Garritano attended the Culinary Institute of America and was employed in Philadelphia for many years as a chef and kitchen manager; in 1994, his wife's nursing career took the family to Palestine, Texas, and they later resided in Duncanville and Victoria before settling in Cedar Park; Mr. Garritano then left the culinary arts to work in building component sales, roofing, construction, and solar sales and installation, and he provided steadfast support and encouragement for his wife in her professional advancement; and

WHEREAS, For two decades, Mr. Garritano was a very active member of St. Thomas More Catholic Church, and he participated in Christ Renews His Parish and volunteered as kitchen manager for Life Teen Retreats; when his youngest son was in Boy Scouts, he became a member of the Troop Committee and served for 17 years as a camping coordinator; he also volunteered for Habitat for Humanity and Mobile Loaves and Fishes, and he donated five percent of his business profits to local charities; a member of the Forest Oaks Homeowners Association, he served as chair of the Pool Committee and as a member of the Architectural Control Committee; in 2015, his daughter gave him a rescue dog, and after learning pet therapy at Austin Dog Alliance, he and his loyal German shepherd, Arty, brought joy and solace to veterans, the elderly, and children through the Leander ISD's Bow Wow Reading Dogs program; and

WHEREAS, Don Garritano lived a rich and purposeful life centered on his family, his faith, and his community, and he will forever hold a special place in the hearts of those he left behind; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Donald Anthony Garritano and extend sincere sympathy to his loved ones; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Don Garritano.