H.R. No. 1452

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, A full and productive life drew to a close with the passing of admired civic leader Clive Runnells Jr. of Houston on April 26, 2019, at the age of 93; and

WHEREAS, The son of Clive Runnells Sr. and Mary Withers Runnells, Clive Runnells was born in Chicago on January 16, 1926, and grew up with a brother, John; he interrupted his education at Yale University to train as an aviation cadet in the U.S. Navy, graduating after the end of World War II; in 1950, he moved to Texas, where he worked for Pure Oil and Wilson Supply Company; like his famous great-grandfather, Abel Head "Shanghai" Pierce, he went into ranching, becoming chair and CEO of Runnells Peters Cattle Company and Runnells Peters Feedyards; he also became a pioneer in both the mutual fund and cable television industries; in the mid-1970s, he organized Gulf Coast Cable Television; he served on the boards of the National Cable Television Association and the Investment Company Institute, often advocating before the U.S. Congress on their behalf; moreover, he was director of Criterion Funds and Criterion Group, and he served on the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Runnells benefited his fellow citizens through his philanthropic endeavors and leadership roles in many realms; he served as chair of the Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County and as president of the Gulf Coast Medical Foundation; in addition, he was a life member of the Development Board of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and a director of the Mental Health Association; he was a director of TIRR Memorial Hermann, a trustee of the Hermann Eye Fund, and a member of the honorary advisory council of the Memorial Hermann Foundation; he established the Nancy, Clive, and Pierce Runnells Distinguished Chair in Neuroscience at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, and he generously supported stem cell research at UTHealth as well; and

WHEREAS, Committed to protecting and preserving coastal wetland and upland prairie, Mr. Runnells donated to The Nature Conservancy in Texas more than 3,000 acres of land now known as the Clive Runnells Family Mad Island Marsh Preserve; he promoted education as a trustee and longtime benefactor of St. Paul's School and as a member of the Associates Program at Rice University; working to improve transportation, he served as chair of the Texas Turnpike Authority and as a director of the Grand Parkway Association and of Texas High-Speed Rail; he was also a member of the Houston chamber of commerce's regional mobility committee; his love of aviation led him to serve on the advisory board of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center, and he was vice chair of the Smithsonian National Board; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Runnells shared a fulfilling marriage with his wife, Kathryn Smyth Runnells; he was the devoted father of three children, Helen, Clive, and Pierce, and stepfather of Amy, Jeff, Calvin, Samuel, David, and John; through the years, he welcomed into his treasured family 14 grandchildren, Clive, Pierre, Mary, Stephen, Grace, Andrew, Katie, Kolin, Dessie, Dudley, Elisa, Matthew, Camille, and Marguerite, as well as 3 great-grandchildren, Baxter, JD, and Ella; he was preceded in death by his first wife and the mother of his children, Winifred Trimble Carter, his second wife, Nancy Morgan Runnells, his son Pierce, and his stepsons David and John; and

WHEREAS, Loyal, kind, unfailingly honest, and deeply compassionate, Clive Runnells gave freely of his time and expertise to better his community, and his contributions will be remembered and admired for years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Clive Runnells Jr. and extend sincere condolences 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 Clive Runnells Jr.

Davis of Harris

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1452 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 2, 2019.

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Chief Clerk of the House