

By: Davis of Harris

H.R. No. 1452

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Runnells benefited his fellow citizens through
21 his philanthropic endeavors and leadership roles in many realms; he
22 served as chair of the Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority
23 of Harris County and as president of the Gulf Coast Medical
24 Foundation; in addition, he was a life member of the Development

1 Board of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
2 and a director of the Mental Health Association; he was a director
3 of TIRR Memorial Hermann, a trustee of the Hermann Eye Fund, and a
4 member of the honorary advisory council of the Memorial Hermann
5 Foundation; he established the Nancy, Clive, and Pierce Runnells
6 Distinguished Chair in Neuroscience at The University of Texas
7 Health Science Center at Houston, and he generously supported stem
8 cell research at UTHealth as well; and

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

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Runnells shared a fulfilling marriage with his
23 wife, Kathryn Smyth Runnells; he was the devoted father of three
24 children, Helen, Clive, and Pierce, and stepfather of Amy, Jeff,
25 Calvin, Samuel, David, and John; through the years, he welcomed
26 into his treasured family 14 grandchildren, Clive, Pierre, Mary,
27 Stephen, Grace, Andrew, Katie, Kolin, Dessie, Dudley, Elisa,

1 Matthew, Camille, and Marguerite, as well as 3 great-grandchildren,
2 Baxter, JD, and Ella; he was preceded in death by his first wife and
3 the mother of his children, Winifred Trimble Carter, his second
4 wife, Nancy Morgan Runnells, his son Pierce, and his stepsons David
5 and John; and

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

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
11 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Clive Runnells Jr. and
12 extend sincere condolences to his loved ones; and, be it further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
15 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Clive
16 Runnells Jr.