SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The city of Houston lost a galvanizing leader with the passing of former mayor Bob Lanier on December 20, 2014, at the age of 89; and

WHEREAS, Born to Jesse and Sally Lanier on March 10, 1925, Robert Clayton Lanier grew up in Baytown and served as a naval officer during World War II; he attended the University of New Mexico and subsequently earned a law degree from The University of Texas at Austin; though he enjoyed successful careers in law, banking, and real estate, he ultimately found himself drawn to politics and public service; he chaired the Texas Highway Commission from 1983 to 1987 and then led Houston's Metropolitan Transit Authority for a year; and

WHEREAS, First elected mayor in 1991, Mr. Lanier was reelected by an overwhelming majority in 1993 and again in 1995; although the city's adoption of term limits precluded a fourth run for the office, his fierce intelligence, deep knowledge of public policy, and skillful coalition-building allowed him to effect far-reaching changes over the course of his six-year tenure; he fulfilled a campaign promise to increase police patrols and reduce crime, and he made great strides in revitalizing the downtown area and improving infrastructure in disadvantaged neighborhoods; moreover, he was an unyielding champion of ethnic diversity, and toward the end of his final term, he led a successful campaign to
save the city's affirmative action program for minority business owners; and

WHEREAS, After leaving office, Mr. Lanier remained a force in Houston politics and civic affairs; he hosted fund-raisers, supported charities, and founded the Lanier Public Policy Conference at the University of Houston; and

WHEREAS, Frequently recognized for his outstanding service to Houston and to the State of Texas, Mr. Lanier received such prestigious accolades as the Hubert Humphrey Civil Rights Award and the Ben Taub Humanitarian Award; he was praised by former presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, and Texas Monthly magazine named him one of the top three Texas mayors of the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lanier married Elizabeth Grant in 1954, and the couple became the proud parents of five children; after being widowed, Mr. Lanier exchanged wedding vows in 1984 with Elyse Bauer and welcomed into his heart and home her two children; and

WHEREAS, A man of tremendous energy and ability, Bob Lanier helped shape the destiny of a great American city through his determination to enhance the quality of life for all its residents, and his enormous contributions as a public servant and civic leader will continue to resonate for years to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby pay tribute to the memory of the Honorable Bob Lanier and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife, Elyse Lanier; to his children, Robert Clayton Lanier Jr. and his wife, Donna, John Frederic Lanier, Elizabeth Lanier Campbell, Susan
S.C.R. No. 17

1 Holly Lanier, Scott Augustus Lanier, Courtney Lanier Sarofim and
2 her husband, Christopher, and Kevin Scott Robins and his wife,
3 Sara; to his grandchildren, Robert Clayton Lanier III, Carlton
4 Thomas Lanier, Brent Lanier Campbell, Judith Ann Lanier, Mary
5 Jessica Lanier, Robert Mitchell Lanier, Gillian Stude Sarofim,
6 Louisa Lanier Sarofim, Fayez Shalaby Sarofim II, Eva Elyse Robins,
7 and Rhett Ezekiel Robins; and to his other relatives and many
8 friends; and, be it further
9 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
10 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
11 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of
12 Bob Lanier.
I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 17 was adopted by the Senate on February 24, 2015.

I hereby certify that S.C.R. No. 17 was adopted by the House on April 29, 2015.

Approved:

5-11-15

Date

Secretary of State

4