

HR 9049

2004

House Resolution

A resolution honoring the late William C. "Bill" Cramer.

WHEREAS, born August 4, 1922, in Denver, Colorado, William C. Cramer began his lifelong devotion to the State of Florida at age four when his family moved to Pinellas County, where he grew up, becoming active in student government in both high school and junior college before, after a stint as a Naval gunnery officer during World War II, he obtained degrees from the University of North Carolina and Harvard Law School, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cramer served the Pinellas area as city attorney and as county attorney, and in 1951 he was among the delegation elected to the Florida House of Representatives that distinguished Pinellas as the first county in the state to send all Republicans to the House and that, as the first House Republican minority leader, afforded him opportunity to become instrumental in banishing one-party rule in Florida, and

WHEREAS, Representative Cramer, described as "perhaps the brightest star on the Southern Republican horizon," was elected to Congress in 1954, the first of his party from Florida since Reconstruction, and rose to ranking Republican on the House Public Works Committee; seized the minority leadership; became vice chairman to Gerald Ford of the Republican Conference; and worked relentlessly to include key areas of Florida in the nation's initial 41,000-mile interstate system, and

WHEREAS, after leaving Congress in 1970, Congressman Cramer practiced law and remained active in politics in Washington, D.C., until, deciding he "wanted to spend more time back home where [he] grew up," he returned to Pinellas County in 1990,

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30 continuing to practice law and enjoy his many associations with
31 friends and peers in the Legislature and in Congress and with
32 former presidents Nixon, Ford, and Bush, and

33 WHEREAS, on October 18, 2003, after "an absolutely,
34 absolutely fantastic life," William C. "Bill" Cramer, family
35 man, gentleman, statesman, and pioneer in Florida's Republican
36 politics, succumbed to a heart attack while awaiting the start
37 of the World Series, NOW, THEREFORE,

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39 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
40 Florida:

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42 That the House of Representatives honors with utmost
43 respect and gratitude the life of William C. "Bill" Cramer and
44 extends its sincere condolences to Mrs. Sara Cramer, his wife,
45 and to his children and grandchildren.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
47 presented to Mrs. Sara Cramer as a tangible token of the
48 sentiments expressed herein.