

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1834

A RESOLUTION in memory of Bob Billings.

WHEREAS, Robert G. “Bob” Billings, 65, of Lawrence, died February 13, 2003, at his home. A native of Russell, he came to Lawrence in 1955 where he became an outstanding student at the University of Kansas and a pillar of the Lawrence community as president of Alvamar, Inc., a recreational and real estate development company; and

WHEREAS, Bob Billings graduated from high school in Russell where he was president of the high school student council, co-captain of the football team and was named the Kansas High School Basketball Player of the Year. He came to the University of Kansas as a Summerfield Scholar and earned a bachelor’s degree in economics, business and political science; his scholastic record caused him to be named to membership in Phi Beta Kappa. He was president of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and named its national outstanding undergraduate in 1959, student body president, vice-president of the Sachem senior men’s honor society and the recipient of the University of Kansas’ Hilltopper Award, the top student award for graduating seniors. He was a guard on the University of Kansas men’s basketball team, playing on the team that included Wilt Chamberlain that went to the NCAA finals. As a basketball player he received All Big Eight Conference honorable mention in 1958 and in 1959 was given the Forrest C. Allen Award as the University of Kansas senior athlete with the highest academic standing; and

WHEREAS, Bob Billings remained at the University of Kansas after graduation as the Director of the Office of Student Financial Aid after completing a year of graduate work in business administration. He held this position for 10 years before entering into the real estate development business. The development on the west side of Lawrence named Alvamar in honor of his parents, Alva and Margaret Billings, encompasses nearly 3,000 acres developed into multiple residential areas, associated businesses and the crown jewel of the area, the nationally recognized public golf course and Alvamar Country Club complex; and

WHEREAS, Bob Billings was honored in 1988 by being given the Distinguished Service Citation from the University of Kansas and in 1984 by being given the Fred Ellsworth Medallion, the highest honor of the University of Kansas Alumni Association, for “unique and significant service to the university”. Bob Billings was honored in 1984 by Baker University as the Lawrence Business Person of the Year and in 1989 by the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas as the Kansan of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Billings served on the University of Kansas Alumni Association board of directors, the University of Kansas Athletic Corporation board, the University of Kansas Endowment Association board of trustees and the University of Kansas School of Business board of advisors; and

WHEREAS, He was a member of the Williams Educational Fund and the University of Kansas Endowment Association Chancellor’s Club as well as a contributor to the Spencer Museum of Art, the Lied Center and the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics; and

WHEREAS, He was keenly interested in the Lawrence community having served on the Lawrence Memorial Hospital board, on the Lawrence Memorial Hospital Endowment Association board, as Drive Chairman for the Lawrence United Fund, on the Villages board, on the Penn House board, on the boards of American Investors Life Insurance Company and AmVestors Financial Corporation, on the board of the Kansas Public Service Company, on the board of the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, on the board of the Reuter Organ Company and on the board of Leadership Lawrence; and

WHEREAS, Bob Billings is survived by his wife, the former Beverly A. Smith, who is president of Alvamar Realty, Inc.: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Bob Billings and acknowledge that we have lost one of the brightest stars ever to cross the Kansas prairie; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Mrs. Robert G. Billings, 1611 St. Andrews Drive, Lawrence, KS 66047.

Senate Resolution No. 1834 was sponsored by Senator Mark A. Buhler.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*