

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.C.R. 21
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As Filed

AUTHOR'S/SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

LeRoy Colombo served as a lifeguard in Galveston for over 40 years and was recognized by the *Guinness Book of World Records* for having saved over 900 lives. Although he became deaf and was paralyzed as a child as the result of a devastating illness, he regained his ability to walk and swim by using swimming as rehabilitation.

LeRoy Colombo was born December 23, 1905, in Galveston. He had a bout with spinal meningitis at the age of seven which left him unable to hear or to walk. He began swimming and within a year he could walk again, but he never recovered his hearing.

He began attending the Texas School for the Deaf in Austin and swam in the campus pool for hours. By the age of 18 he had become a member of the elite Surf Toboggan Club. The club tested prospective members by requiring them to swim continuously for three hours.

Over the course of his decades-long career as a lifeguard, LeRoy saved a record-setting 907 people from drowning. He retired at the age of 62 but continued to swim in the Gulf of Mexico every day until his death on July 12, 1974.

Mr. Colombo was an esteemed citizen of this state and his achievements in the face of adversity provide inspiration to all Texans. The naming of the natatorium at the Texas School for the Deaf in Austin in his honor would provide a fitting opportunity for all Texans to pay tribute to LeRoy Colombo.

Section 2165.005 (Naming of State Buildings), Government Code, establishes a procedure for the naming of a state building by requiring that the proposed designation be submitted to the Texas Building and Procurement Commission and that a concurrent resolution authorizing the designation be passed by the legislature and signed by the governor.

RESOLVED

That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby approve and authorize the naming of the natatorium at the Texas School for the Deaf in Austin the LeRoy Colombo Swim Center; and that the secretary of state forward an official copy of this resolution to the executive director of the Texas Building and Procurement Commission.