

House Resolution 1149

By: Representative Drenner of the 57th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring and remembering the life of Mr. Lafe Compton Chafin; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, this nation and the State of West Virginia lost one of its finest leaders, lawyers,
3 personalities, and most charitable citizens when Mr. Lafe Compton Chafin left this world and
4 our great nation August 10, 2003; and

5 WHEREAS, he was born the son of Dorsey and Shirley Chafin and spent nearly his entire
6 life residing in his beloved home state of West Virginia; and

7 WHEREAS, he was a graduate of Marshall University and the Washington and Lee School
8 of Law and a generous benefactor of Marshall University; and

9 WHEREAS, over the course of his professional career, Lafe Chafin was a U.S. Navy
10 serviceman, an assistant prosecuting attorney for Cabell County, a founding partner of the
11 law firm Barrett, Chafin, Lowry, Amos and McHugh, and a renowned and tireless advocate
12 of the labor movement; and

13 WHEREAS, he practiced law in Huntington, West Virginia, for over 49 years and never
14 retired, either in personality or from his beloved profession, maintaining an active law
15 practice until his death; and

16 WHEREAS, through his unflagging efforts and passion for the working men and women of
17 West Virginia, Lafe became a pioneer in the field of labor law and, due to his
18 uncompromising honesty, was respected and revered by friends and foes alike; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Chafin never shied from controversy or unpopular positions if convinced
20 of the justice and right of his cause and was truly a charismatic and outgoing individual
21 possessing a keen mind and biting, but never malicious, wit; and

1 WHEREAS, for his charity and goodwill toward Marshall University, an institution he
2 wholeheartedly loved, he was honored with the university's endowment of the Lafe C.
3 Chafin Scholarship; and

4 WHEREAS, he dearly loved his chosen profession, his friends and colleagues, and, above
5 all, his cherished wife, Ethel; his three children, Lafe Derek Chafin, Dr. J. Brett Chafin, and
6 Kellie L. Hardin; and his four grandchildren.

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
8 the members of this body honor and remember the extraordinary life of Mr. Lafe Compton
9 Chafin and express our deepest regret and condolences to his family and the State of West
10 Virginia on the passing of this great husband, father, lawyer, personality, and humanitarian.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
12 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. Lafe
13 Compton Chafin.