



### **A Tribute Resolution of Heartfelt Appreciation Honoring William L. Braden**

- Whereas William Braden was one of the first people to embrace the vision of the Eastland Disaster Historical Society (EDHS) at a very early stage in its organizational history;
- Whereas William Braden quickly recognized the value that would be provided to the public by EDHS;
- Whereas William Braden thoughtfully took a huge leap of faith to join an organization whose business plan consisted primarily of the vision and passion of its founders;
- Whereas William Braden committed to volunteer his time and talents to help lead EDHS at the earliest stages of organizational development;
- Whereas William Braden was a featured speaker at EDHS's first-ever event, with over 300 persons attending;
- Whereas William Braden served EDHS voluntarily with the highest distinction, becoming a member of the first EDHS Board of Trustees in 2002, helping to lead EDHS from its infancy to its status as an important and relevant not-for-profit organization whose reach impacts people across the country and in Europe;
- Whereas William Braden started a lasting organizational relationship between EDHS and the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago organization;
- Whereas William Braden elevated the relevance and significance of the history of the Eastland Disaster within the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago;
- Whereas William Braden's early ground-laying efforts above continue to benefit both organizations years after his retirement, as evident in: (a) the single-most important historical Eastland Disaster document being given to EDHS at a Red Cross event in 2012, and (b) the Eastland Disaster being included in the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary commemoration plans and video of the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago in 2015;

*Resolved*, that the Eastland Disaster Historical Society, on behalf of its members and Board, commits to:

1. creating a collection of artifacts to permanently bear the name *William L. Braden / EDHS Collection* at the Newberry Library, an iconic institution in Chicago; and
2. documenting William Braden's personal contributions to EDHS on a webpage to be permanently tied to the "About Us" section of the EDHS website.

So moved and seconded on October 26, 2019 by the EDHS Board of Trustees.

Susan Decker  
Co-Founder

Barbara Decker Wachholz  
Co-Founder

Ted Wachholz  
Executive Director

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**1998-2019 OUR TWENTY-FIRST YEAR!**