

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That GULF INSURANCE COMPANY, a corporation of the State of Missouri, hereinafter called "Company," does hereby appoint

JOYCE MYERS OR BRENDA HILL OR PHILLIP E. LUEBBEHUSEN OR GARY RAY

FORT WORTH, TEXAS

its true and lawful Attorney-in-fact to make, execute, seal and deliver on its behalf, as surety, any and all bonds and undertakings of suretyship, not to exceed \$250,000.00 or any bond where the penalty is not stated in the bond form. No authority is granted where the attorney-in-fact is a party at interest in the bond.

The execution of such bonds or undertakings in pursuance of these presents shall be as binding upon the Company as if they had been executed and acknowledged by the regularly elected officers of the Company.

This Power of Attorney is issued pursuant to and by authority of the following resolution of the Board of Directors of the Company, adopted effective July 1, 1983, and now in full force and effect:

"Resolved that the President, or any Senior Vice President, or any Vice President, or the Secretary, or any Assistant Secretary may appoint Attorneys-in-fact in any state, territory or federal district to represent this Company and to act on its behalf within the scope of the authority granted to them, in writing, which authority may include the power to make, execute, seal and deliver on behalf of this Company, as surety, and as its act and deed, any and all bonds and undertakings of suretyship and other documents that the ordinary course of surety business may require, including authority to appoint agents for the service of process in any jurisdiction, state or federal, and authority to attest to the signature of the President, or any Senior Vice President, or any Vice President, or the Secretary, or any Assistant Secretary and to verify any affidavit or other statement relating to the foregoing, and to certify to a copy of any of the bylaws of the Company and to any resolutions adopted by its Board of Directors; and any such Attorney-in-fact may be removed and the authority granted him revoked by the President, or any Senior Vice President, or any Vice President, or the Secretary, or any Assistant Secretary, or by the Board of Directors."

This Power of Attorney and Certificate are signed and sealed by facsimile under and by authority of the following resolution of the Board of Directors of the Company, adopted effective July 1, 1983, and now in full force and effect:

"Resolved that the signature of the President, or of any Senior Vice President, or of any Vice President, or of the Secretary, or of any Assistant Secretary, and the seal of the Company may be affixed by facsimile to any power of attorney or to any certificate relating thereto appointing Attorneys-in-fact for purposes only of executing and attesting bonds and undertakings and other writings obligatory in the nature thereof, including any such power of attorney and certificate revoking the authority of the foregoing Attorneys-in-fact, as well as for the appointment of agents for the service of process in any jurisdiction, state or federal, including any such power of attorney and certificate revoking the authority of such agents; and any such power of attorney or certificate bearing such facsimile signature or facsimile seal shall be valid and binding upon the Company and any such power of attorney or certificate so executed and certified by such facsimile signature and facsimile seal shall be valid and binding upon the Company at the time any such power of attorney and certificate are executed and in the future with respect to any bond or undertaking to which they are attached."

In Witness Whereof, the Company has caused this Power of Attorney to be signed and its corporate seal to be affixed by its authorized officer this

March 28th, 1996

By

Bill Messick
Sr. Vice President

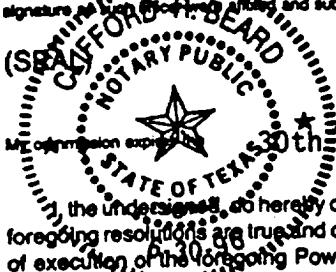


at:

28th day of March

1996, before me, a Notary Public of the State and County aforesaid, residing therein, duly commissioned

and sworn, personally came the above named officer of GULF INSURANCE COMPANY, who being by me first duly sworn according to law, did depose and say that he is that officer of the company described in and which executed the foregoing instrument; that he knows the seal of said company; that the seal affixed to such instrument is the corporate seal of said company; and that the corporate seal and his signature as such officer of said company, and subscribed to the said instrument by the authority and direction of said company.



Clifford R. Beard
Clifford R. Beard

Notary Public

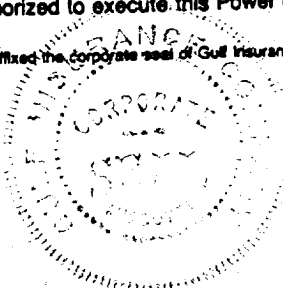
day of June

1996

CERTIFICATE

the undersigned, do hereby certify that the original Power of Attorney of which the foregoing is a true and correct copy is in full force and effect, and the foregoing resolutions are true and correct transcripts from the records of GULF INSURANCE COMPANY and that the above named officer was on the date of execution of the foregoing Power of Attorney authorized to execute this Power of Attorney.

I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the corporate seal of Gulf Insurance Company this 29th day of February, 1996



Rodney Richel
Vice President



IMPORTANT NOTICE

To obtain information or make a complaint:

You may contact your Agent.

You may call Gulf Group's toll-free telephone number for information or to make a complaint at

1-800-360-8399

You may contact the Texas Department of Insurance to obtain information on companies, coverages, rights or complaints at

1-800-252-3439

You may write the Texas Department of Insurance

P.O. Box 149104

Austin, TX 78714-9104

FAX # (512) 475-1771

PREMIUM OR CLAIM DISPUTES: Should you have a dispute concerning your premium or about a claim you should contact the agent or the company first. If the dispute is not resolved, you may contact the Texas Department of Insurance.

ATTACH THIS NOTICE TO YOUR POLICY: This notice is for information only and does not become a part or condition of the attached document.

AVISO IMPORTANTE

Para obtener informacion o para someter una queja:

Puede comunicarse con su Agente.

Usted puede llamar al numero de telefono gratis de Gulf Group para informacion o para someter una queja al

1-800-360-8399

Puede comunicarse con el Departamento de Seguros de Texas para obtener informacion acerca de companias, coberturas, derechos o quejas al

1-800-252-3439

Puede escribir al Departamento de Seguros de Texas

P. O. Box 149104

Austin, TX 78714-9104

FAX # (512) 475-1771

DISPUTAS SOBRE PRIMAS O RECLAMOS: Si tiene una disputa concerniente a su prima o a un reclamo, debe comunicarse con el agente o la compania primero. Si no se resuelve la disputa, puede entonces comunicarse con el departamento (TDD).

UNA ESTE AVISO A SU POLIZA: Este aviso es solo para proposito de informacion y no se convierte en parte o condicion del documento adjunto.