

By: Wu

H.R. No. 91

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life dedicated to the service of others has drawn
2 to a close with the death of Kenneth Lee Decker of Houston on
3 December 13, 2020, at the age of 74; and

4 WHEREAS, Ken Decker was born in Oklahoma City on April 9,
5 1946, to Willis and Wanda Decker, and he grew up with two sisters,
6 Donna and Kay; after graduating from S. H. Rider High School in
7 Wichita Falls, he attended the Georgetown University School of
8 Foreign Service in Washington, D.C.; in August 1970, he married
9 Lorraine Ross in Austin, and the couple later moved to Bologna,
10 Italy, where Mr. Decker studied at the Johns Hopkins School of
11 Advanced International Studies; and

12 WHEREAS, Returning to Austin, Mr. Decker worked as
13 international trade director for the Texas Department of
14 Agriculture while also attending the Graduate School of Business at
15 The University of Texas at Austin; in 1976, he joined Arthur
16 Andersen LLP, in Houston, where he rose to tax manager, and with the
17 encouragement of his wife, he went on to launch his own
18 international tax practice, Decker Financial, conducting financial
19 workshops and personal counseling sessions with thousands of
20 families around the world; and

21 WHEREAS, In the aftermath of 9/11, Mr. and Mrs. Decker
22 founded two nonprofits, Financial Mentors of America and Skills For
23 Living, and each summer, Mr. Decker organized and emceed the Game
24 of Real Life in Houston, inspiring underserved high school students

1 to strive for a brighter future; as president of Decker &
2 Associates, he published *Real Life Financial Mathematics* and worked
3 with more than 50 Texas school districts to train teachers in this
4 critical-thinking curriculum; he was active in many local, state,
5 and national professional organizations, and he was also a lifelong
6 member of the Houston Committee on Foreign Relations; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Decker was the proud and loving father of two
8 children, Caryn and Cameron, and having started his own career in
9 the public sector, he encouraged them to follow their dreams and
10 shape the world for the better as leaders in the City of San Diego
11 and Harris County governments, respectively; he delighted in the
12 time he spent traveling to the Texas Hill Country, Argentina, and
13 the Cayman Islands, and he enjoyed reading, listening to music, and
14 watching British mystery shows on television; and

15 WHEREAS, Although he is deeply missed, Ken Decker leaves
16 behind a legacy of generosity, wit, and compassion that will
17 continue to inspire all those who knew and loved him; now,
18 therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
20 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Kenneth Lee Decker
21 and extend heartfelt sympathy to his family and many friends; and,
22 be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
25 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Kenneth Lee
26 Decker.