

By: Clardy

H.R. No. 195

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The faculty and students of Stephen F. Austin State
2 University lost a beloved colleague and mentor with the death of
3 Dr. Ken Collier on June 14, 2020, at the age of 60; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Joe and Betty Lyn Collier, Ken Collier was
5 born on July 7, 1959; he graduated from Longview High School and
6 went on to attend Kilgore College and then The University of Texas
7 at Austin, where he earned a bachelor's degree in government in 1981
8 and a Ph.D. in government in 1988; and

9 WHEREAS, After teaching at the University of Kansas, where he
10 also managed the athletic department's website, Dr. Collier joined
11 the faculty of Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches in
12 1999; a well-respected scholar, he was the author of two books,
13 *Between the Branches: The White House Office of Legislative Affairs*
14 and *Speechwriting in the Institutionalized Presidency*, and the
15 coauthor of *Lone Star Politics: Tradition and Transformation in*
16 *Texas*, one of the leading textbooks on Texas politics; in addition,
17 he was the author or coauthor of some 15 peer-reviewed articles in
18 important academic journals; and

19 WHEREAS, A passionate advocate for his students, Dr. Collier
20 earned the SFASU Teaching Excellence Award in 2006; he supervised
21 the Texas Legislative Internship Program, which has placed 35
22 students over the years in legislative internships and helped
23 launch several careers in public service, and in his name, SFASU has
24 set up an endowment to assist in funding the program going forward;

1 he also served on numerous committees for the Department of
2 Government, the College of Liberal and Applied Arts, and the
3 university at large; moreover, he was Faculty Senate chair from
4 2010 to 2011, and from 2013 until his death, he was the program
5 coordinator for the political science program; and

6 WHEREAS, A regular presence at all Lumberjack games,
7 Dr. Collier was an enthusiastic supporter of the athletic program,
8 building strong relationships with many of the student athletes and
9 working to improve the athletic department's educational efforts
10 and mission; during his tenure as Faculty Athletic Representative,
11 he helped raise the department's average GPA to a record high of
12 3.22; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. Collier shared a rewarding marriage with his
14 wife, Sandy Benavides Collier, that spanned more than three
15 decades, and he took great pride in their daughter, Nicole; and

16 WHEREAS, A loving family man and an admired scholar and
17 teacher, Ken Collier lived a rich and purposeful life, and memories
18 of his enthusiasm, dry wit, and dedication to service remain to
19 comfort and inspire those he leaves behind; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
21 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Dr. Ken Collier and
22 extend heartfelt sympathy to his relatives and many friends; and,
23 be it further

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