

By: Cole

H.R. No. 15

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, An exemplary life dedicated to serving the people of
2 Austin and Travis County drew to a close with the death of former
3 Austin mayor and Travis County commissioner Bruce Todd on
4 December 25, 2021, at the age of 72; and

5 WHEREAS, Bruce Todd was born on December 17, 1949, and raised
6 in Breckenridge by his mother, Mary Katherine Holland Todd, in a
7 close-knit family that included his five siblings, Howard, Kathy,
8 Elizabeth, Knox, and Holly; as a member of the Breckenridge Boys
9 Choir, he was inspired to a life of public service after performing
10 at the White House for President John F. Kennedy in 1962; he was
11 possessed of a strong work ethic, and he worked full-time while
12 attending The University of Texas, rising to the position of clerk
13 of the Austin Municipal Court; he was serving as director of
14 information services at the Texas Civil Council when he completed
15 his bachelor's degree in business administration in 1972; and

16 WHEREAS, From 1974 to 1986, Mr. Todd worked as an accountant
17 at three local firms, including the practice of future Austin mayor
18 Gus Garcia; in 1986, he was elected to the Travis County
19 Commissioners Court for Precinct 2, and during his tenure on the
20 court from 1987 to 1991, he led the effort to consolidate several
21 road and bridge operations into one department, encouraged
22 cooperation between social service agencies in the county, and
23 helped lay the groundwork for the creation of the Balcones
24 Canyonlands Preserve; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Todd was elected mayor of Austin in 1991 and
2 served two terms until retiring in 1997; in the course of his
3 tenure, he helped establish the city as a mecca for tech companies,
4 attracting such employers to Austin as Samsung, AMD, and Applied
5 Materials; he also spearheaded the effort to convert Bergstrom Air
6 Force Base into a new commercial airport, known today as
7 Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, and he oversaw the
8 transfer of the city's Brackenridge Hospital to the nonprofit
9 Ascension Seton; and

10 WHEREAS, Returning to the private sector, Mr. Todd
11 established his own consulting firm, Bruce Todd Public Affairs, and
12 through the years, he played a leading role in the creation of the
13 Long Center for the Performing Arts and in the promotion of commuter
14 railways in Central Texas; he was the founding chair of the Austin
15 Community College Center for Public Policy and Political Studies,
16 and from 2013 to 2014, he returned to public service to complete an
17 unfinished term as Travis County commissioner for Precinct 2; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Todd and his first wife, Betsy, were blessed
19 with a son, Jeremy; he later shared 27 years of marriage with
20 Elizabeth Christian and became a loving stepfather to her daughter,
21 Alex Rose; and

22 WHEREAS, A devoted family man and an inspiring public
23 servant, Bruce Todd leaves behind a record of good works that will
24 long resonate in the Austin community and beyond; now, therefore,
25 be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
27 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Bruce Todd and

1 extend heartfelt sympathy to the members of his family: to his wife,
2 Elizabeth Christian; to his son, Jeremy Palmer Todd; to his
3 stepdaughter, Elizabeth Alexandra Rose; to his first wife, Betsy
4 Palmer Martin; to his siblings, Howard Todd and his wife, Jann,
5 Kathy Gray and her husband, Tim, Elizabeth Todd, Knox Todd and his
6 wife, Courtenay, and Holly Stephens and her husband, Jas; to his
7 in-laws, Susan Goulding and her husband, Mike, George Christian and
8 his wife, Betsy, Robert Christian, John Christian and his wife,
9 Adina, and Brian Christian and his wife, Erin; and to his other
10 relatives and many friends; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
13 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Bruce Todd.