

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family, friends, and fans across Texas and the
2 nation mourn the loss of celebrated actress and Abilene native
3 Carole Cook, who passed away on January 11, 2023, at the age of 98;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Born Mildred Frances Cook on January 14, 1924,
6 Carole Cook graduated in 1945 from Baylor University, where she
7 studied Greek drama; after working in regional theater, she made it
8 to Broadway in 1954 in a revival of *Threepenny Opera*; she was in a
9 production of *Kismet* in Warren, Ohio, when she was contacted by
10 legendary actress Lucille Ball, who encouraged her to travel to
11 California to audition for her Desilu Workshop company of young
12 actors; it was Ms. Ball who would later suggest she change her name
13 and offered "Carole" in honor of her friend Carole Lombard, because
14 the two shared "the same healthy disrespect for all things in
15 general"; and

16 WHEREAS, Ms. Cook signed with Desilu, and in 1960, she made
17 her television debut in *U.S. Marshal*; known for her appearances on
18 *The Lucy Show* and *Here's Lucy*, she had memorable turns on countless
19 television shows, including *Starsky and Hutch*, *Charlie's Angels*,
20 *Knight Rider*, *Laverne and Shirley*, *The Love Boat*,
21 *Murder, She Wrote*, and *Grey's Anatomy*; and

22 WHEREAS, Along the way, Ms. Cook garnered roles in numerous
23 films; in 1963, she appeared in *Palm Springs Weekend*, and the
24 following year, she costarred with Don Knotts in

1 *The Incredible Mr. Limpet*; in the 1980s, she was cast in *American*
2 *Gigolo* and *Grandview, U.S.A.*, and she won acclaim for her comedic
3 role as Molly Ringwald's grandmother in *Sixteen Candles*; and

4 WHEREAS, In addition to her extensive work in film and
5 television, Ms. Cook was the star of several stage productions; she
6 followed Carol Channing as the second actress to portray Dolly Levi
7 in *Hello, Dolly!* and went on to perform in the original Broadway
8 productions of *Romantic Comedy* and *42nd Street*; moreover, she
9 received a Helen Hayes Award nomination for her work on the national
10 tour of *Steel Magnolias*, and in 2023, the Texas Cultural Trust
11 honored her with its Medal of Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement in
12 Musical Theatre; and

13 WHEREAS, Ms. Cook married actor Tom Troupe in March 1964, and
14 the couple enjoyed a rewarding union that spanned nearly six
15 decades; over the years, they acted together in such plays as *The*
16 *Lion in Winter* and *Father's Day* and raised money for those living
17 with HIV/AIDS; and

18 WHEREAS, Whether on stage, screen, or film, Carole Cook
19 delighted audiences with humor, irreverence, and prodigious
20 talent, and her work will forever remain a source of joy and
21 inspiration; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
23 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Carole Cook and extend
24 sincere condolences to the members of her family: to her husband,
25 Tom Troupe; to her stepson, Christopher, and his wife, Becky; to her
26 sister, Regina; to her nieces and nephews; and to all who mourn her
27 passing; and, be it further

H.R. No. 60

1 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
2 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
3 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Carole
4 Cook.

Darby

H.R. No. 60

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 60 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on February 22, 2023.

Chief Clerk of the House