

By: Howard

H.R. No. 2277

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A life made rich through meaningful service drew to
2 a close with the passing of Martha Gay Kokernot Ratliff of Austin on
3 April 21, 2023, at the age of 80; and

4 WHEREAS, The daughter of Rosemary Kibbe Breeden Kokernot and
5 Frederick David Kokernot Jr., the former Gay Kokernot was born on
6 November 2, 1942; during her early childhood, she lived on her
7 family's ranch in Gonzales County, and she later grew up in Cuero,
8 Victoria, and Austin; she attended The University of Texas at
9 Austin, where she pledged Kappa Alpha Theta; and

10 WHEREAS, Mrs. Ratliff founded an interior design company,
11 and over the years, her work was featured in numerous national
12 publications; a dedicated champion for the arts and for historic
13 preservation, she played an instrumental role in restoring the
14 Paramount Theatre and establishing the Austin Lyric Opera; she was
15 also a member of the Texas Historical Commission, and she was
16 involved in the Texas Main Street Program; in addition, she gave
17 generously of her time and talents to the National Trust for
18 Historic Preservation, Preservation Austin, and Friends of the
19 Governor's Mansion; and

20 WHEREAS, In all her endeavors, Mrs. Ratliff enjoyed the love
21 and support of her husband, Shannon Harrison Ratliff, with whom she
22 shared nearly six decades, and she took great pride in their
23 children, Shannon, Rosemary, and Claire, and their grandchildren,
24 Caroline and Shannon; she loved spending time with friends and

1 family, caring for her pets, and tending to her garden; and

2 WHEREAS, Gay Ratliff lived a life that was rich in personal
3 and professional achievements, and she will forever be a source of
4 inspiration to those she leaves behind; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
6 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Martha Gay Kokernot
7 Ratliff and extend heartfelt sympathy to the members of her family:
8 to her husband, Shannon Harrison Ratliff; to her children, Shannon
9 Harrison Ratliff II and his wife, Rémi, Rosemary Kokernot Ratliff
10 Harris and her husband, August, and Claire Elizabeth Kokernot
11 Ratliff; to her grandchildren, Caroline Abbott Ratliff and Shannon
12 Harrison Ratliff III; to her sister, Joy Kokernot; and to her other
13 relatives and many friends; and, be it further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
16 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Gay
17 Ratliff.