

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 2505

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Legendary Texas Congressman and State
2 Representative Mickey Leland is being posthumously honored with the
3 dedication of an Official Texas Historical Marker at Texas Southern
4 University on August 18, 2023; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Lubbock in 1944, George Thomas "Mickey"
6 Leland III grew up in Houston's Fifth Ward; a graduate of Phillis
7 Wheatley High School, he went on to earn a bachelor's degree in
8 pharmacy at TSU; even before he embarked on his career as an elected
9 official, he demonstrated a deep concern for those in need, and
10 while working as an instructor of clinical pharmacy at his alma
11 mater, he developed an educational outreach campaign offering
12 medical screenings to low-income residents; and

13 WHEREAS, Beginning his legislative service at the state
14 level, Congressman Leland first won election to the Texas House of
15 Representatives in 1972; he quickly gained renown in the area of
16 health care policy, and he helped coordinate the passage of
17 legislation for affordable generic drugs and supported the creation
18 of health maintenance organizations; a member of numerous
19 committees, he became the first African American to serve on the
20 Senate-House Conference Committee as a member of the House
21 Appropriations Committee, and he held the office of vice chair of
22 the Joint Committee on Prison Reform; and

23 WHEREAS, After three terms in the Texas House, Congressman
24 Leland was elected to the United States House of Representatives in

1 1978; taking a leading role on the issue of food insecurity, he
2 founded the House Select Committee on Hunger, secured \$784 million
3 in funding for famine relief, and won passage of bills providing
4 fresh produce to low-income families and food and medical resources
5 for the homeless; he also helped establish the National Commission
6 on AIDS and served as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus from
7 1985 to 1987; moreover, he won praise from the State Department for
8 arranging the release of four Americans imprisoned in Cuba; and

9 WHEREAS, Congressman Leland tragically lost his life in a
10 plane crash in 1989 while leading a relief mission to a refugee camp
11 in Ethiopia; though his time on this earth proved far too brief, his
12 contributions have continued to resonate through the years,
13 inspiring legions of activists and public officials; in recognition
14 of his accomplishments, a number of facilities and initiatives have
15 been named in his honor, including a federal building and the Mickey
16 Leland College Preparatory Academy for Young Men in Houston and the
17 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Internship Program; in
18 addition, the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs
19 at TSU celebrates the contributions of these two groundbreaking
20 representatives from the 18th Congressional District; and

21 WHEREAS, Mickey Leland made a lasting, positive impact
22 through his tireless efforts to improve the lives of people in Texas
23 and around the globe, and the establishment of this official
24 historical marker is a fitting tribute to his remarkable legacy;
25 now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
27 Legislature hereby commemorate the dedication of an Official Texas

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1 Historical Marker honoring Congressman Mickey Leland.