

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 490

In Memory
of
Steve Murdock

WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost an admired educator and demographer with the passing of former U.S. Census Bureau director Steven Harold Murdock on April 7, 2023, at the age of 74; and

WHEREAS, The son of Lois and Raymond Murdock, Steve Murdock was born in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, on June 2, 1948; after graduating from North Dakota State University, he went on to earn his doctoral degree in demography and sociology from the University of Kentucky; he taught for a quarter century at Texas A&M University, where he held a Regents Chair; for a decade, he held the Lutcher Brown Distinguished Chair in Demography and Organization Studies at The University of Texas at San Antonio; in 2007, he joined Rice University as the Allyn and Gladys Cline Chair in Sociology, and he became the founding director of Rice's Hobby Center for the Study of Texas; he was the author of dozens of books and nearly 50 academic journal articles, and he was a caring mentor to his Ph.D. students; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Murdock originated and institutionalized the position of Texas state demographer; for more than 25 years, he guided the Texas State Data Center and Texas Population Estimates and Projections Program, taking a leadership role in the state's efforts in the 1980, 1990, and 2000 decennial censuses; he also made approximately 50 to 60 presentations each year on the changing size and distribution of the state's population at the request of groups such as legislators, school superintendents, and fellow academics; President George W. Bush nominated him as director of the U.S. Census Bureau in 2007, and his dedication to public service led him to accept, even though the job would last only a year until the next administration; he is credited with being the steady hand that kept the 2010 Census on course during a period of transition; and

WHEREAS, Among numerous honors, Dr. Murdock received the Distinguished Alumni Award from North Dakota State University, the Faculty Distinguished Research Award from Texas A&M, and both the Distinguished Rural Sociologist and Excellence in Research Awards from the Rural Sociological Society; in 2005, he was named one of the 25 Most Influential Texans by *Texas Monthly*; and

WHEREAS, Although Steve Murdock will be deeply missed, he left behind a legacy of scholarship and service that will be remembered and admired for years to come; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 88th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the life of Steven Harold Murdock and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his wife, Mary Zey; to his stepson, James Collins Ferrell; to his grandson, George Collins Ferrell; to his sister, Joann Lonbaken, and her husband, Roger, and his brother, Lee Murdock, and his wife, June; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Steve Murdock.

Eckhardt, Campbell

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 27, 2023, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate