

By: Bryant

H.R. No. 1240

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Carlton Carl of Martindale, an admired wordsmith,  
2 philanthropist, entrepreneur, and friend to many, passed away on  
3 March 25, 2025, at the age of 79; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Claudia and Urbane Carl, Carlton Carl was  
5 born in Houston on September 20, 1945, and grew up with an older  
6 brother, Colin; he graduated from Columbia University and went on  
7 to earn his master's degree from the institution's renowned  
8 journalism school; at the age of 26, he was appointed press  
9 secretary to then-governor Preston Smith; two years later, he  
10 joined the staff of Texas House Speaker Price Daniel Jr.; he  
11 subsequently worked on or ran campaigns for such Democratic Party  
12 legends as Bob Bullock and Ann Richards; in 1983, he moved to  
13 Washington, D.C., as press secretary to U.S. Representative John  
14 Bryant, of Dallas, Texas, a close friend; he later became vice  
15 president of communications, policy, and strategy for the American  
16 Association for Justice, the national organization of trial lawyers  
17 dedicated to seeking civil redress for workers and consumers; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Carl's love of small-town Texas drew him back to  
19 the state in the mid-2000s, when he sold his townhome in  
20 Washington, D.C., to take on the mission of revitalizing old  
21 downtown Martindale; after purchasing three vacant general stores,  
22 a decommissioned bank, and multiple other parcels, he became a  
23 friend, mentor, and supporter, as well as landlord, to many local  
24 business owners; he was instrumental in establishing the library

1 and organizing a variety of community-building events and  
2 initiatives; fascinated by the town's heritage, he became a  
3 founding member of the Martindale Historic Preservation Commission  
4 and helped create the historic district; his efforts facilitated  
5 Martindale's rise as a top choice of movie and television location  
6 scouts seeking a classic turn-of-the-20th-century site; along the  
7 way, he was recruited as CEO and publisher of the *Texas Observer*, a  
8 revered bastion of progressive and investigative journalism; he  
9 went on to serve the publication as a proofreader and, until his  
10 death, a member of the board of its governing nonprofit; devoted to  
11 his family, he enthusiastically followed all their activities and  
12 interests; and

13 WHEREAS, Through his wide-ranging endeavors, Carlton Carl  
14 made a meaningful difference in the world around him, and his warmth  
15 and generosity will remain a source of inspiration to all who were  
16 privileged to know him; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas  
18 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Carlton Carl and  
19 extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his nephew  
20 and nieces, Daniel, Rebecca, Eleanor, and Elisabeth Carl; to his  
21 grandnephews and grandniece, Amoni, Jude, Zev, Zia, Porter,  
22 Theodore, and Emet; to his sister-in-law, Glenda Carl; and to his  
23 other relatives and host of friends; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
25 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
26 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Carlton  
27 Carl.