

By: Eckhardt, et al.

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SENATE RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Carole Stewart Keeton, a highly esteemed Texan and a pioneering public servant, who died on March 26, 2025, at the age of 85; and

WHEREAS, Born September 13, 1939, Carole Keeton was the second child and only daughter of Madge Anna Stewart and W. Page Keeton, legendary dean of The University of Texas School of Law; enthusiastic and driven from an early age, Carole attended The University of Texas in the early 1960s, which helped to lay the foundation for her distinguished career of public service and a lifelong dedication to her community and state; and

WHEREAS, Carole broke barriers in Texas politics and government throughout her career, and in 1972, she became the first woman elected president of the Austin Independent School District Board of Trustees; she went on to become the first woman to serve as mayor of Austin in 1977 and committed her efforts to fostering the growth and development of the city, and she remains the only woman to have held the office; and

WHEREAS, In 1994, Carole Keeton became the first woman elected to the Texas Railroad Commission, and in 1998, she earned the similar distinction of being the first woman elected Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts; she served in this capacity from 1999 to 2007, during which time she demonstrated a robust commitment to fiscal responsibility and good governance as well

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as a dedication to economic transparency and a principle-driven work ethic; and

WHEREAS, A powerful voice for Texans, Carole made an impact that extended well beyond her official duties, particularly on issues of education and government efficiency; her influence resonated across party lines, and her snappy delivery and personal aphorisms endeared her to many and served to highlight her sharp wit and her keen insight into the challenges faced by everyday Texans; and

WHEREAS, While her professional accomplishments were remarkable, Carole found the greatest reward in her role as a mother and grandmother; she raised her four sons with care and devotion and instilled in them the value of hard work and the same diligence and intrepidity that defined her civic service; she treasured time spent with her grandchildren, who were a source of much pride and joy to her, and she was a model of grace and resilience to her loved ones; and

WHEREAS, A woman of strength, perseverance, and generosity, Carole leaves behind a distinguished legacy of service shaped by her notable achievements and her spirit of determination; she will continue to be a source of inspiration to others long into the future, and her memory will be dearly cherished by her loving family members and by the many people who were privileged to know her and to share in her life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, hereby extend sincere condolences to the bereaved

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family of Carole Stewart Keeton; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for her family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Carole Keeton.