

By: Baxter

H.R. No. 255

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Honorable Terry Keel of Austin has rendered
2 exceptional service to his fellow citizens throughout his tenure in
3 the Texas House of Representatives; and

4 WHEREAS, First elected to the house in 1996, Representative
5 Keel was returned to four succeeding legislatures by the
6 constituents of District 47; he currently serves as chairman of the
7 committee on criminal jurisprudence, and he was chair of the select
8 interim committee on sex offender statutes and the select committee
9 on election contests; and

10 WHEREAS, A former Travis County sheriff and assistant
11 district attorney, Representative Keel has authored or sponsored a
12 number of successful bills relating to the criminal justice system
13 as well as bills relating to property and education; and

14 WHEREAS, Before entering the legislature, Terry Keel served
15 as sheriff of Travis County from 1992 to 1997; the first Republican
16 elected to that office since Reconstruction, he supervised a staff
17 of more than 1,200 and managed an inmate population of more than
18 2,500; during his tenure, he established a professional
19 victim-services program and collaborated with the Austin Police
20 Department in organizing joint law enforcement operations; he also
21 expanded inmate agriculture, labor, and education programs; and

22 WHEREAS, While assistant district attorney, from 1984 to
23 1992, he served as lead prosecutor in more than 50 contested felony
24 jury trials and held the position of chief prosecutor over several

1 units; additionally, he was designated the lead assistant D.A. in
2 numerous capital murder, homicide, sexual assault, and attempted
3 capital murder cases; and

4 WHEREAS, This distinguished Texan has given generously of his
5 time and expertise to the advisory council of the Crime Victims'
6 Institute, in the Texas attorney general's office, and to the
7 advisory board of the St. Edward's University School of Behavioral
8 and Social Sciences; and

9 WHEREAS, Representative Keel has received accolades from the
10 chief of the APD and from a host of law enforcement organizations,
11 as well as from the Austin Fire Fighters Association, Texas Library
12 Association, and The University of Texas System Board of Regents;
13 in 2000 and 2001, he was recognized by the State Bar of Texas for his
14 significant contributions to the delivery of legal services to
15 low-income Texans; and

16 WHEREAS, A fifth-generation Austinite, Representative Keel
17 is the father of twin sons, Travis and Sean; he is a parishioner of
18 Emmaus Catholic Church, in Lakeway, and a charter board member of
19 the APD chapter of the Emerald Society of Texas; and

20 WHEREAS, In the nearly 10 years he has spent in the house of
21 representatives, Terry Keel has brought his deep experience and
22 formidable skills to bear, especially on the vital policy areas of
23 public safety and criminal justice, and through his legislative
24 leadership he has touched the lives of Texans across the Lone Star
25 State; now, therefore, be it

26 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
27 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commend the Honorable Terry

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1 Keel for his outstanding service in the Texas House of
2 Representatives and extend to him sincere appreciation for his
3 tireless devotion to this state; and, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
5 prepared for Representative Keel as an expression of high regard by
6 his colleagues in the Texas House of Representatives.