

By: Dukes

H.R. No. 1179

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, With the untimely passing of Boyd Vance of Austin on
2 April 9, 2005, the State of Texas has lost a gifted artist, a
3 dedicated activist, and an eloquent advocate for social justice;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Houston in 1957, Mr. Vance first moved to
6 Austin to attend St. Stephen's Episcopal School, and he went on to
7 earn his bachelor's degree in English from The University of Texas
8 at Austin; and

9 WHEREAS, A consummate theater professional, Mr. Vance
10 starred in more than 40 productions and directed more than 50,
11 bringing to every project his characteristic blend of disciplined
12 focus, inspired creativity, and generosity of spirit; and

13 WHEREAS, Though an unparalleled performer in his own right,
14 he was less interested in furthering his own career than he was in
15 fostering a supportive and vital arts community for the benefit of
16 others; to that end, he shared his extensive expertise with
17 aspiring African American theater professionals as a cofounder of
18 Pro Arts Collective and through his work with the African-American
19 Technical Resource Center; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Vance's commitment to community extended far
21 beyond the arts, and he willingly lent his time and talent to such
22 worthwhile events as Austin's African American Heritage Festival
23 and the Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard Clean Up Celebration;
24 and

1 WHEREAS, It is the singular gift of great artists to
2 communicate in a universal language that unites people from all
3 walks of life, and in sharing his considerable talents with
4 grateful audiences, Mr. Vance lifted their spirits and captivated
5 them with work of joy and meaning; and

6 WHEREAS, Although he cannot be replaced on or off the stage,
7 his many friends and admirers may take comfort in the fact that his
8 vibrant spirit lives on in the organizations he helped build, in the
9 artistic community he enriched, and in the hearts of all those
10 fortunate enough to have known him; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
12 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life and work of Boyd Vance
13 and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to his
14 mother, Hattie Vance; to his brothers, Clen and Booker Vance; and to
15 his other family members and many friends; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House
18 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Boyd
19 Vance.