

By: Naishtat

H.C.R. No. 72

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, The Lone Star of Texas shines a little less brightly
2 today with the loss of the fearless, funny, independent-minded
3 journalist Molly Ivins, who died in Austin on January 31, 2007; and

4 WHEREAS, Born Mary Tyler Ivins in Monterey, California, on
5 August 30, 1944, she was the daughter of Jim and Margot Milne Ivins;
6 after her family moved to the River Oaks neighborhood of Houston,
7 Ms. Ivins attended St. John's School, where she was the editor of
8 the student newspaper; and

9 WHEREAS, She developed her love of the outdoors during hiking
10 and sailing trips with her family; she also received her earliest
11 training in political debate through lively and freewheeling
12 discussions with her father on the issues of the day; and

13 WHEREAS, Following in the footsteps of her mother and
14 grandmother, Ms. Ivins attended Smith College in Northampton,
15 Massachusetts, graduating with a bachelor's degree in journalism in
16 1966; she also attended the Institute of Political Sciences in
17 Paris and earned a master's degree in journalism from Columbia
18 University in New York; and

19 WHEREAS, Her long and colorful career in journalism began
20 with summer jobs as a reporter at the *Houston Chronicle*, where she
21 was known for her interest in socially significant stories; her
22 first full-time job was with the *Minneapolis Tribune*, as the
23 paper's first female police reporter; she also created her own
24 "Movements for Social Change" beat at the paper, writing about, as

1 she later put it, "militant blacks, angry Indians, radical
2 students, uppity women and a motley assortment of other misfits and
3 troublemakers"; and

4 WHEREAS, Returning to Texas in 1970 to become co-editor of
5 the *Texas Observer*, she further developed her distinctively witty
6 prose and populist stance; she took great pleasure in the high style
7 of Texas politics, calling it the best free entertainment in
8 Austin; she later called her years at the *Observer* "a happy, golden
9 time, full of sunshine and laughter and beer"; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1976 she moved to the *New York Times*, working as a
11 political reporter in New York and Albany, and then as the Rocky
12 Mountain bureau chief in Denver; in the staid culture of the *Times*,
13 she stood out by wearing jeans, working barefoot, and bringing her
14 dog to work, and she often sparred with the editors over her love of
15 jokes and salty metaphors; and

16 WHEREAS, She returned to Texas in 1982 as a columnist for the
17 *Dallas Times Herald*, where her strong opinions and pointed wit
18 amused and sometimes outraged the paper's readers, often at the
19 same time; when subscribers complained and several advertisers
20 pulled their ads, the paper responded by putting up billboards in
21 Dallas that read, "Molly Ivins Can't Say That, Can She?", which
22 became the title of her first book, a collection of her columns; and

23 WHEREAS, After the *Times Herald* folded in 1993, she wrote for
24 the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, and then began her syndicated column,
25 which has been carried twice weekly in 400 newspapers nationwide;
26 she compiled several collections of her columns, and with Lou
27 Dubose she wrote two best-selling volumes on national politics; and

1 WHEREAS, Over a long and storied career, Ms. Ivins won many
2 awards, including the William Allen White Award from the University
3 of Kansas, the Eugene V. Debs Award in the field of journalism, and
4 the David Nyhan Prize from the Shorenstein Center at the Kennedy
5 School of Government at Harvard University; she was a finalist for a
6 Pulitzer Prize in commentary in 1985 and 1988; yet she often used
7 her awards as trivets during dinner parties and said that the two
8 honors she valued most were having the Minneapolis Police
9 Department name their mascot pig after her when she was covering
10 them, and being banned from speaking on the Texas A&M campus during
11 her *Texas Observer* days; and

12 WHEREAS, Considered by many to be a crusading satirist on a
13 par with Mark Twain and Will Rogers, she will be remembered by her
14 many readers across the nation for her deeply held convictions, her
15 plainspoken but pungent prose, and her unsparing wit; she will also
16 be remembered for her appearances on *60 Minutes*, *The MacNeil/Lehrer*
17 *News Hour*, NPR's *Morning Edition*, and other programs where she
18 explained to the nation the mysteries of her home state in a sly
19 Texas drawl; and

20 WHEREAS, Molly Ivins never wavered in her love of Texas; she
21 was straight-talking, passionate, boundlessly energetic, and
22 always the funniest person in the room; a brilliant raconteur and
23 hostess, she opened her home to a lively crowd at a monthly event
24 known as Last Friday; a true and loyal friend, a brilliant writer,
25 and a tireless campaigner for the causes she believed in, Molly
26 Ivins will be remembered by all as a force of nature, a woman who
27 lived life right to the end without the brakes on, with style and

1 spirit and great good humor; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the 80th Legislature of the State of Texas
3 hereby honor the life of Molly Ivins and offer sincere condolences
4 to the members of her family: to her sister, Sara Ivins Maley; to
5 her brother, Andy Ivins, and his wife, Carla; to her nephew, Drew,
6 and her niece, Darby; to her niece, Margot Hutchison, and her
7 husband, Neil, and their children, Sam, Andy, and Charlie; to her
8 nephew, Paul Maley, and his wife, Karianna, and their children,
9 Marty, Anneli, and Finnbar; and to her other relatives and many
10 friends; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
13 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so (though
14 she'd scarcely believe it herself) in memory of Molly Ivins.