

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The residents of Austin bid farewell to a dedicated  
2 advocate for peace and civil rights with the passing of Ruth Hunter  
3 Ellinger on April 26, 2007; and

4           WHEREAS, Born on April 23, 1919, Ruth Ellinger attended  
5 Washington University in St. Louis, where she met peace activist W.  
6 Don Ellinger, who became her husband in 1940; relocating to Texas,  
7 she helped unionize Dallas clothing manufacturers and was active in  
8 the NAACP and Americans for Democratic Action; she was also on the  
9 front lines of the struggle for integration and led a racially  
10 integrated Girl Scout troop, an achievement she later repeated when  
11 she became a resident of Washington, D.C.; and

12           WHEREAS, Ruth Ellinger moved to Austin with her husband and  
13 children in 1956; she took up the fight against segregation in  
14 Central Texas, and she and her children worked to integrate Barton  
15 Springs and City Park; in the early 1960s, the family moved to the  
16 nation's capital and Mrs. Ellinger continued her activism by  
17 becoming a leader in Neighbors, Incorporated, which worked to  
18 preserve the city's racially mixed neighborhoods; and

19           WHEREAS, After her husband died in 1972, Ruth Ellinger  
20 returned to Austin, where she became education director of the  
21 Texas AFL-CIO; she was responsible for the creation of the  
22 organization's Youth Conference and Labor Law Schools, and she also  
23 served as editor of the union's statewide newsletter and as founder  
24 and director of the Union Learning Center; moreover, she was one of

1 the founders of the *Texas Observer*; and

2 WHEREAS, Ruth Ellinger married Wally Ellinger in 1976, and  
3 the couple's home became a hub for activism and creative arts; they  
4 hosted West Austin Democrats events in their home and also  
5 organized a reception for United Farm Workers President Cesar  
6 Chavez as well as a variety of other gatherings; and

7 WHEREAS, Those fortunate enough to have known Ruth Ellinger  
8 will remember a remarkable woman who championed social justice, who  
9 exemplified integrity and tolerance, and who touched the lives of  
10 many with her courage, compassion, and generosity of spirit; now,  
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
13 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Ruth Hunter Ellinger  
14 and offer condolences to the members of her family: to her children,  
15 Hunter, Marko, Dana, Jeff, Mary, Mickey, and Matt Ellinger and  
16 Christy Ellinger Pipkin; to her 12 grandchildren; and to her other  
17 relatives and her many friends and admirers; and, be it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
19 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of  
20 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ruth  
21 Ellinger.

Naishtat

H.R. No. 2448

---

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 2448 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on May 25, 2007.

---

Chief Clerk of the House