

By: Naishtat

H.R. No. 2448

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.