

By: Branch

H.R. No. 2842

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Family and friends are mourning the loss of the
2 Honorable Karen Jane Greene-Council, longtime state district judge
3 in the 282nd District Court in Dallas County, who passed away on
4 April 26, 2007, at the age of 50; and

5 WHEREAS, Judge Greene-Council grew up in the Oak Cliff
6 neighborhood of Dallas and graduated from the Hockaday School and
7 The University of Texas at Austin; and

8 WHEREAS, She worked for American Airlines for 10 years in New
9 York City, where she met and dated comedian Jerry Seinfeld; she was
10 involved in the incident that inspired the famous 1992 "Pez
11 Dispenser" episode of the *Seinfeld* television series, which
12 featured a crescendo of uncontrollable laughter that wrecked a
13 piano recital; and

14 WHEREAS, After returning to Texas to attend Southern
15 Methodist University School of Law, Judge Greene-Council became
16 interested in criminal law; she worked as a briefing attorney at the
17 Fifth Court of Appeals in Dallas and then served as a prosecutor in
18 the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, where she held the
19 distinction of never losing a felony jury trial as lead attorney;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, When George W. Bush became the governor of Texas, he
22 selected Judge Greene-Council to be his criminal justice advisor,
23 and for two years she was involved in all aspects of the statewide
24 criminal justice system, including legislation, victim's projects,

1 juvenile law, parole, and executions; and

2 WHEREAS, Governor Bush appointed her as state district judge
3 of the 282nd District Court in 1997; as a criminal judge, she
4 presided over serious felony trials involving capital murder,
5 aggravated robbery, rape, and child abuse and handled five
6 death-penalty cases; in her 10 years on the bench, she was never
7 reversed on appeal; and

8 WHEREAS, In November 1999, Judge Greene-Council was
9 diagnosed with stage III-b breast cancer, and following a
10 mastectomy and the removal of cancerous lymph nodes, she began a
11 rigid schedule of chemotherapy followed by 33 rounds of radiation;
12 after the cancer went into remission, she participated in a phase I
13 clinical trial at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center to prevent
14 recurrence; and

15 WHEREAS, Active in a variety of community organizations, she
16 served on the board and as a volunteer at Gilda's Club and the
17 Volunteer Center Community Council, and she also was a member of the
18 boards of the Dallas Youth Services Corps, the Dallas County
19 Juvenile Board, Children's Medical Center, and the Dallas Women
20 Lawyers Association; and

21 WHEREAS, Judge Greene-Council became well known for her
22 volunteer work related to cancer, as well as for sharing her
23 experiences as a cancer survivor; in 2003, she was honored to
24 receive the Macy's Heart and Soul award for her work in the cancer
25 community; she has been published and featured in a wide range of
26 media, including *Cure* magazine, *The New Yorker*, UPN's "Positively
27 Texas," and John Hammarley's "4 Your Health" series on Fox 4

1 television; she often spoke to survivor and professional groups
2 about the life-changing experience of being diagnosed with cancer,
3 and she was quoted in the Summer 2007 issue of *Heal* magazine as
4 saying, "My doctors regretfully told me that I had a poor
5 prognosis. I learned that the best therapy was to never deny myself
6 pleasures such as naps, long laugh-filled dinners with friends, and
7 shoes"; and

8 WHEREAS, When this courageous woman was hospitalized in April
9 2007 after a recurrence led to a collapsed lung, she told her
10 friends, "How can anyone say cancer beat me, when I am going to meet
11 my maker?"; and

12 WHEREAS, After a week of saying good-bye to family members
13 and numerous friends, including the president and the attorney
14 general of the United States, she died peacefully in the early
15 morning of April 26, 2007, at her home in East Dallas, with her
16 husband, John Council, and her two dogs, Sam and Taz, at her side;
17 now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
19 Legislature hereby honor the memory of the Honorable Karen Jane
20 Greene-Council and offer sincere condolences to her husband, John
21 Council, and to the other members of her family; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
24 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Judge Karen
25 Greene-Council.