

By: Lon Burnam

H.R. No. 2963

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The successful operation of the Texas House of
2 Representatives during the 80th legislative session has been
3 greatly aided by the dedicated work of House Parliamentarian Denise
4 Davis and Deputy Parliamentarian Christopher Griesel; and

5 WHEREAS, Since her appointment to the position in 2004, Ms.
6 Davis has capably handled her duties of guiding the Speaker through
7 the daily activities of house floor sessions and ensuring that the
8 members abide by the House Rules; a graduate of The University of
9 Texas School of Law, she has previously served as director of and
10 counsel to the Texas Judicial Council, as general counsel for the
11 Lieutenant Governor's Office, as house deputy parliamentarian, and
12 as an attorney with the Texas Legislative Council; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Griesel has also brought extensive experience to
14 his role as deputy parliamentarian; before his appointment in 2004,
15 he served notable tenures as the rules attorney for the Supreme
16 Court and as an attorney with the Texas Legislative Council; and

17 WHEREAS, The conscientious efforts of Ms. Davis and Mr.
18 Griesel have ably supported the members of this chamber throughout
19 this regular session, and their service is truly appreciated; and

20 WHEREAS, Denise Davis and Chris Griesel stood up to
21 autocratic control of a democratic institution by resigning their
22 posts as parliamentarians; and

23 WHEREAS, Ms. Davis and Mr. Griesel could have given in to
24 dictatorial pressure but instead stood firm and did what they knew

1 was right, even though it cost them their jobs; and

2 WHEREAS, democratic institutions depend on respect for rules
3 and precedents, Ms. Davis and Mr. Giesel took a stand for democracy
4 on May 25, 2007, otherwise known as the Friday Night Massacre of the
5 House Rules; and

6 WHEREAS, by resigning to protest a decision that threatened
7 the integrity of the House, Ms. Davis and Mr. Giesel showed great
8 respect for the Rules of the House, the Constitution of the State of
9 Texas, and the institution of the Texas House of Representatives;
10 now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
12 Legislature hereby commend House Parliamentarian Denise Davis and
13 Deputy Parliamentarian Christopher Giesel for their exemplary
14 work and extend to them best wishes for the future; and, be it
15 further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for Ms. Davis and Mr. Giesel as an expression of high
18 regard by the Texas House of Representatives.