

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Across this state and nation, people who wage the  
2 fight for social justice are mourning the loss of Frederick Martin  
3 Baron of Dallas, who passed away on October 30, 2008, at the age of  
4 61; and

5           WHEREAS, Born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1947, Mr. Baron moved  
6 to Smithville when he was 15; an outstanding student and football  
7 star in high school, he went on to attend The University of Texas at  
8 Austin, where he earned a B.A. in 1968 and a J.D. in 1971; and

9           WHEREAS, Inspired by consumer advocate Ralph Nader, Mr. Baron  
10 went to work after law school at the Dallas-based firm of Mullinax,  
11 Wells, Mauzy & Baab, which represented labor unions and union  
12 workers; in 1974, he filed a major case concerning asbestos  
13 exposure at an East Texas plant, a suit that eventually resulted in  
14 an award of \$20 million and that helped establish his reputation as  
15 an able and tenacious attorney; Mr. Baron formed his own firm, now  
16 known as Baron & Budd, in 1977 to represent victims of occupational  
17 diseases and industrial pollution; over the course of a more than  
18 30-year career, his formidable skills and passionate engagement  
19 would make him a national leader in the field of asbestos and other  
20 toxic-tort litigation; and

21           WHEREAS, Mr. Baron's commitment to the cause of worker and  
22 consumer safety was evident, as well, in his professional  
23 affiliations; he cofounded Trial Lawyers for Public Justice in 1982  
24 and served as president of that group from 1997 to 1998; other

1 organizations to benefit from his involvement were the Association  
2 of Trial Lawyers of America, which he served as president, and the  
3 American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, of which he was a  
4 founding board member; in addition, he was a staunch supporter of  
5 Public Citizen and People for the American Way; and

6 WHEREAS, Fred Baron stepped down from his firm in December  
7 2002 to focus his efforts on politics and charitable causes; he  
8 played a major role in raising funds for the Kerry/Edwards ticket in  
9 2004, and he served as national finance chair for John Edwards in  
10 both of his runs for the presidency; in 2005, Mr. Baron founded the  
11 Texas Democratic Trust, which has greatly assisted the state's  
12 Democratic Party; and

13 WHEREAS, Together with his wife, Lisa Blue-Baron, Fred Baron  
14 created the Baron and Blue Foundation, which works with area  
15 organizations to eliminate homelessness and address the needs of  
16 the underserved; the couple also gave over the first floor of their  
17 home to religious, philanthropic, and cultural organizations,  
18 welcoming their fund-raisers and other events; the depth of Mr.  
19 Baron's empathy for those in distress was demonstrated yet again in  
20 the wake of Hurricane Katrina, when he spent many days at Reunion  
21 Arena taking food and other supplies to the refugees there,  
22 listening to their stories, and helping them in whatever way he  
23 could; and

24 WHEREAS, The recipient of myriad accolades, this  
25 distinguished Texan was named a "Legal Legend" by *Texas Lawyer*,  
26 designated one of the "100 Most Influential Lawyers in the U.S." by  
27 the *National Law Journal*, and presented with an Outstanding Service

1 Award by the William Wayne Justice Center for Public Interest Law at  
2 The University of Texas School of Law; in 2001, his alma mater  
3 established the Frederick M. Baron Chair in Law in recognition of  
4 his contributions to the school and his remarkable accomplishments;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The impact of Fred Baron's life extended far and  
7 wide; he fought relentlessly for the safety of ordinary citizens,  
8 gave abundantly of his resources in behalf of others, and sought to  
9 ensure that government would also serve those less fortunate, and  
10 he will indeed be missed; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas  
12 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Frederick Martin  
13 Baron and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his family: to  
14 his wife, Lisa Blue-Baron; to his children, Andrew Baron, Courtney  
15 Baron and her husband, Brad Singer, and Alessandra, Caroline, and  
16 Nathalie Baron; to his granddaughter, Liza; to his brother, Robert  
17 Baron, and his sister, Joan Baron; and to his other relatives and  
18 many friends; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
20 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
21 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Frederick  
22 Martin Baron.

Hodge

Straus	Gattis	Menendez
Allen	Geren	Merritt
Alonzo	Giddings	Miklos
Alvarado	Gonzales	Miller of Comal
Anchia	Gonzalez Toureilles	Miller of Erath
Anderson	Guillen	Moody
Aycock	Gutierrez	Morrison
Berman	Hamilton	Naishtat
Bohac	Hancock	Oliveira
Bolton	Hardcastle	Olivo
Bonnen	Harless	Orr
Branch	Harper-Brown	Ortiz, Jr.
Brown of Kaufman	Hartnett	Otto
Brown of Brazos	Heflin	Parker
Burnam	Hernandez	Patrick
Button	Herrero	Paxton
Callegari	Hilderbran	Peña
Castro	Hochberg	Phillips
Chavez	Hodge	Pickett
Chisum	Homer	Pierson
Christian	Hopson	Pitts
Cohen	Howard of Fort Bend	Quintanilla
Coleman	Howard of Travis	Raymond
Cook	Hughes	Riddle
Corte	Hunter	Rios Ybarra
Crabb	Isett	Ritter
Craddick	Jackson	Rodriguez
Creighton	Jones	Rose
Crownover	Keffer	Sheffield
Darby	Kent	Shelton
Davis of Harris	King of Parker	Smith of Tarrant
Davis of Dallas	King of Taylor	Smith of Harris
Deshotel	King of Zavala	Smithee
Driver	Kleinschmidt	Solomons
Dukes	Kolkhorst	Strama
Dunnam	Kuempel	Swinford
Dutton	Laubenberg	Taylor
Edwards	Legler	Thibaut
Eiland	Leibowitz	Thompson
Eissler	Lewis	Truitt
Elkins	Lucio III	Turner of Tarrant
England	Madden	Turner of Harris
Farabee	Maldonado	Vaught
Farias	Mallory Caraway	Veasey
Farrar	Marquez	Villarreal
Fletcher	Martinez	Vo
Flores	Martinez Fischer	Walle
Flynn	McCall	Weber
Frost	McClendon	Woolley
Gallego	McReynolds	Zerwas

H.R. No. 1276

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1276 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on April 14, 2009.

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Chief Clerk of the House