

By: Deshotel

H.R. No. 1706

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Keith Carter of Beaumont has been named the 2009
2 Texas Medal of Arts honoree for Visual Arts by the Texas Cultural
3 Trust; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1948, Keith Carter
5 grew up in Beaumont, where his mother supported the family with a
6 portrait photography business operated out of a small home studio;
7 fascinated by the brilliance of light in one of his mother's prints,
8 Mr. Carter borrowed her camera and began learning about photography
9 from books and magazines; inspired by the work of Henri
10 Cartier-Bresson and Paul Strand, he experimented with form and
11 space as well as with the development process, and his "mistakes"
12 and their interesting results helped build his own printing
13 methodology; while honing his craft, he found path-changing
14 inspiration in a Mexican cemetery, where tattered streamers in a
15 tree took on a ghostlike symbolism in his viewfinder; he also
16 experienced a revelation when he heard playwright Horton Foote
17 speak at a film festival about the importance of belonging to a
18 "place"; newly inspired, Mr. Carter discovered the unique and
19 exotic in the familiar environs of Southeast Texas; and

20 WHEREAS, Today, this seminal artist is an internationally
21 recognized photographer who has been called "a poet of the
22 ordinary"; his haunting, enigmatic work has been widely exhibited
23 in the United States, Europe, and Latin America, and his
24 photographs are featured in numerous collections, including the Art

1 Institute of Chicago, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the
2 George Eastman House, the Museum of Fine Arts of Houston, and the
3 Wittliff Collection of Southwestern and Mexican Photography at
4 Texas State University; eight monographs of his black and white
5 photographs have been published, and he has earned two National
6 Endowment for the Arts Regional Survey Grants as well as the
7 Lange-Taylor Prize from the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke
8 University; his work has also been profiled on the national network
9 television show, *CBS Sunday Morning*; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Carter holds the endowed Walles Chair in Fine
11 Arts at Lamar University in Beaumont, and he has been recognized
12 with that institution's highest teaching honor, the University
13 Professor Award; he has also been named the Lamar University
14 Distinguished Lecturer; and

15 WHEREAS, In all of his endeavors, Mr. Carter has benefited
16 from the love and encouragement of his wife, Patricia Royer Staton;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Wholly dedicated to his art, Keith Carter has long
19 demonstrated a commitment to depicting the people and places of
20 Southeast Texas, and his eloquent and evocative photographs have
21 contributed immeasurably to the rich cultural tapestry of the Lone
22 Star State; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
24 Legislature hereby congratulate Keith Carter on his receipt of a
25 2009 Texas Medal of Arts and extend to him sincere best wishes for
26 continued success; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for Mr. Carter as an expression of high regard by the Texas
2 House of Representatives.