

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 310

In Memory  
of  
Lani Hanako Silver

**WHEREAS,** The Senate of the State of Texas honors and commemorates the life of Lani Hanako Silver, who died January 28, 2009, at the age of 60; and

**WHEREAS,** A resident of the California Bay Area, Lani Silver was a leader in the community and renowned for her political activism, her commitment to social justice, and her humanitarian endeavors; and

**WHEREAS,** She was born on March 28, 1948, in Lynn, Massachusetts, and moved to San Francisco with her parents and sisters when she was two months old; she earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in government from the University of San Francisco and a master's degree in political science from the University of Chicago; and

**WHEREAS,** A trip to South Africa when she was 19 years old led to her intense interest in poverty and civil rights issues; when she returned to the Bay Area, she began working in the Jewish community; in 1981 she went to Israel and that same year she founded the Bay Area Holocaust Oral History Project, for which she coordinated 1,700 oral histories with 1,400 survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust; she was the first consultant for Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation for Visual History; and

**WHEREAS,** Lani Silver worked to raise awareness about James Byrd, Jr., the African American who was killed by white supremacists in Jasper, Texas; she helped collect 2,500 oral

histories about the impact of racism and served as director of the James Byrd, Jr., Racism Oral History Project, a program of the Byrd Foundation for Racial Healing; and

**WHEREAS**, Lani Silver was a remarkable woman with many talents who spent her lifetime working diligently for the causes she believed in; she made a lasting impact on the lives of many people, and she leaves behind memories that will be treasured forever by all who knew her; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the life of Lani Hanako Silver and extend sincere condolences to her bereaved family; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Lani Hanako Silver.

Ellis

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 25, 2009, by a rising vote.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate