

By: Phillips

H.R. No. 568

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The life of a respected attorney and former state
2 official came to an end with the untimely passing of Gregory Scott
3 Coleman of Austin on November 23, 2010; and

4 WHEREAS, Born on October 31, 1963, Greg Coleman grew up in a
5 military family and lived in many different locations during his
6 youth, though he came to regard the Lone Star State as his home; as
7 an undergraduate, he earned a bachelor's degree magna cum laude in
8 applied mathematics from Texas A&M and then continued his studies
9 at the university to attain a master's degree summa cum laude in
10 business administration; during his years in College Station, he
11 met his future wife, Stephanie, and the couple later became the
12 parents of three sons, Chase, Austin, and Reid; and

13 WHEREAS, Intent on a career as a lawyer, Mr. Coleman enrolled
14 at The University of Texas School of Law, where he served as the
15 managing editor of the *Texas Law Review* and received a juris doctor
16 degree with high honors in 1992; he then took the opportunity to
17 broaden his legal knowledge by working as a judicial law clerk for
18 U.S. Court of Appeals judge Edith Hollan Jones and U.S. Supreme
19 Court justice Clarence Thomas; and

20 WHEREAS, Known for his determination and intellectual
21 curiosity, Mr. Coleman applied his talents to the practice of
22 appellate law and quickly built a reputation for success; he
23 initially worked in the Austin office of Weil, Gotshal & Manges,
24 heading the firm's national supreme court and appellate practice;

1 undertaking a broad range of cases, from complex business
2 litigation to public policy and constitutional issues, he provided
3 vital assistance to numerous clients, often on a pro bono basis; and

4 WHEREAS, This accomplished attorney was called to public
5 service in 1999, when he became the first solicitor general of the
6 State of Texas; in addition to skillfully arguing the state's
7 position in its most important legal appeals, he established the
8 high standards of professionalism that have continued to guide the
9 actions of the individuals who have succeeded him in that important
10 post; and

11 WHEREAS, In 2007, Mr. Coleman cofounded the firm of Yetter
12 Coleman, where he continued his stellar record as an appellate
13 lawyer; in the course of his career, he frequently handled cases
14 that were heard by the U.S. Supreme Court, and he had the
15 distinction of arguing more cases before that institution than any
16 other lawyer in Texas; in 2009 alone, he won two closely watched
17 high court rulings, and these triumphs were recognized by the
18 *National Law Journal*, which named Yetter Coleman to its prestigious
19 Appellate Hot List; moreover, Mr. Coleman's stature was
20 acknowledged by his inclusion on a number of other well-known
21 rankings of top attorneys, including those published by *Benchmark*
22 *Litigation*, *Corporate Counsel*, *The American Lawyer*, and *Texas*
23 *Monthly*; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Coleman was a mentor to numerous young lawyers,
25 serving as an adjunct professor at the South Texas College of Law
26 and the UT School of Law and taking a deep interest in the
27 development of his law firm colleagues; widely admired by his

1 peers, he was a member and president-elect of the Texas Law Review
2 Association, and had served as vice chair and secretary of the Texas
3 Board of Criminal Justice as well as been active in various legal
4 organizations; and

5 WHEREAS, In spite of his professional commitments, this
6 caring husband and father was dedicated to his family and took
7 special delight in accompanying his sons on Gulf of Mexico fishing
8 expeditions; his other interests included reading and taking part
9 in a variety of outdoor activities, and he was a devoted member of
10 the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; and

11 WHEREAS, Though his life ended far too soon, Greg Coleman
12 nonetheless established himself as a lawyer of rare ability whose
13 passion for justice and respect for the truth had a lasting and
14 positive impact on many lives; his legacy of achievement and
15 concern for others will remain an inspiration to all who had the
16 good fortune to know him; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
18 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Gregory Scott Coleman
19 and that deepest condolences be extended to the members of his
20 family: to his wife of 23 years, Stephanie Coleman; to his sons,
21 Chase, Austin, and Reid Coleman; to his parents, Harold and Karen
22 Coleman; to his sister, Sherie Olcott; and to his other relatives
23 and many friends; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
25 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
26 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Gregory
27 Coleman.