

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Residents of Fort Worth lost a celebrated architect
2 and dedicated community leader with the passing of Preston Murdoch
3 Geren, Jr., on June 12, 2013, at the age of 89; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of Fort Worth, Preston Geren was born on
5 December 16, 1923, to Preston M. Geren, Sr., and Linda Giesecke
6 Geren; he graduated from Arlington Heights High School and then
7 followed in his grandfather's, father's, and uncle's footsteps to
8 study architecture at Texas A&M University; in 1943, at the age of
9 19, he left school to join the U.S. Army and fight in World War II,
10 but his desire to serve his country was nearly thwarted when he
11 failed the vision test for new recruits; determined and
12 resourceful, he snuck back into the clinic, memorized the eye
13 chart, and easily passed the test the next day; and

14 WHEREAS, Deployed to Europe as a member of the Third Army,
15 Mr. Geren went on to earn a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, and a
16 Purple Heart; he later resumed his education at Georgia Tech, where
17 he obtained a degree, but his lifelong allegiance was to the Aggies;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Geren worked for his father's firm, Preston
20 M. Geren Architect and Engineers, as a draftsman, designer,
21 engineer, and spec writer before becoming a partner in the company;
22 when his father died in 1969, Mr. Geren became the firm's sole
23 owner; he was involved in designing buildings at Texas Christian
24 University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, The

1 University of Texas at Arlington, and A&M, where he was especially
2 proud of the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center; in addition, he
3 assisted architect Louis Kahn in developing the renowned Kimbell
4 Art Museum; his firm also regularly worked with school districts to
5 design schools, and Mr. Geren enjoyed those projects immensely; and

6 WHEREAS, Over the years, this esteemed Texan contributed to
7 his profession as president of both the Texas Society of Architects
8 and its Fort Worth chapter and as chair of the Texas Architectural
9 Foundation; he was named a Fellow of the American Institute of
10 Architects and was recognized for his achievements with the
11 Llewelyn Pitts Award; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Geren retired in 1984 and subsequently turned
13 his attention full-time to giving back to his beloved hometown; he
14 was a member of the board of the Fort Worth Children's Hospital and
15 the Museum of Science and History, among other organizations, and
16 he served as president of Streams & Valleys, a nonprofit group
17 committed to the revitalization of the Trinity River; he further
18 distinguished himself through his devotion to A&M, serving on the
19 TAMU Bush Presidential Museum Committee, the Chancellor's and
20 President's Advisory Councils, the Executive Committee of the 12th
21 Man Foundation, and the Advisory Council of the College of
22 Architecture; he was honored with the Distinguished Alumnus Award
23 in 2007; and

24 WHEREAS, Although he was known for his strong work ethic,
25 Mr. Geren took pleasure in spending leisure time with his treasured
26 family; he was the devoted husband of Colleen Geren, and he took
27 great pride in their five children and numerous grandchildren; he

1 and his wife shared nearly six decades together before her passing
2 in 2012; and

3 WHEREAS, Preston Geren inspired all who knew him through his
4 generous and purposeful life, and he leaves behind a legacy that
5 will continue to resonate for many years to come; now, therefore, be
6 it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
8 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the memory
9 of Preston Murdoch Geren, Jr., and extend sincere condolences to
10 the members of his family: to his children, State Representative
11 Charles L. Geren, former U.S. congressman Preston M. "Pete" Geren
12 III, Eva Geren Motheral, Chandra Edwards Geren, and Dr. Beauford T.
13 "Toby" Erwin III; to his sisters, Linda Lee Nichols and Alma
14 Caroline Key; to his 11 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren;
15 and to his other relatives and friends; and, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
17 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
18 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Preston
19 Murdoch Geren, Jr.

Raymond
Thompson of Harris

Straus	N. Gonzalez of El Paso	Orr
Allen	Gooden	Otto
Alonzo	Guerra	Paddie
Alvarado	Guillen	Parker
Anchia	Gutierrez	Patrick
Anderson	Harless	Perez
Ashby	Harper-Brown	Perry
Aycock	Hernandez Luna	Phillips
Bell	Herrero	Pickett
Bohac	Hilderbran	Pitts
Bonnen of Brazoria	Howard	Price
Bonnen of Galveston	Huberty	Raney
Branch	Hughes	Ratliff
Burkett	Hunter	Raymond
Burnam	Isaac	Reynolds
Button	Johnson	Riddle
Callegari	Kacal	Ritter
Canales	Keffer	Rodriguez of Bexar
Capriglione	King of Hemphill	Rodriguez of Travis
Carter	King of Parker	Rose
Clardy	King of Taylor	Sanford
Coleman	King of Zavala	Schaefer
Collier	Kleinschmidt	Sheets
Cook	Klick	Sheffield of Bell
Cortez	Kolkhorst	Sheffield of Coryell
Craddick	Krause	Simmons
Creighton	Kuempel	Simpson
Crownover	Larson	Smith
Dale	Laubenberg	Smithee
Darby	Lavender	Springer
J. Davis of Harris	Leach	Stephenson
S. Davis of Harris	Lewis	Stickland
Davis of Dallas	Longoria	Strama
Deshotel	Lozano	Taylor
Dukes	Lucio III	Thompson of Brazoria
Dutton	Marquez	Thompson of Harris
Eiland	Martinez Fischer	Toth
Elkins	Martinez	Turner of Collin
Fallon	McClendon	Turner of Harris
Farias	Menendez	Turner of Tarrant
Farney	Miles	Villalba
Farrar	Miller of Comal	Villarreal
Fletcher	Miller of Fort Bend	Vo
Flynn	Moody	Walle
Frank	Morrison	White
Frullo	Munoz, Jr.	Workman
Giddings	Murphy	Wu
Goldman	Naishtat	Zedler
Gonzales	Nevarez	Zerwas
M. Gonzalez of El Paso	Oliveira	

H.R. No. 219

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 219 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on June 24, 2013.

Chief Clerk of the House