

By: Raymond

H.R. No. 219

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.