

By: Geren

H.R. No. 407

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Citizens of this state and nation lost a highly
2 esteemed leader and patron of the arts with the January 6, 2013,
3 passing of Ruth Carter Stevenson, the woman responsible for the
4 founding of the Amon Carter Museum of American Art; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of Fort Worth, the former Ruth Carter was
6 born on October 19, 1923, to Nenetta B. Carter and Amon G. Carter,
7 Sr., an oil magnate and philanthropist who became publisher of the
8 *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* the year of her birth; at age 15, she
9 attended her first art history course at the Madeira School in
10 McLean, Virginia, which included field trips to a number of museums
11 and galleries in the nation's capital; her appreciation for art was
12 further shaped during her years at Sarah Lawrence College in
13 Bronxville, New York, when she frequently visited the collections
14 in New York City; after graduating from Sarah Lawrence in 1945, she
15 returned to her hometown and served on the board of the Fort Worth
16 Art Association; in one of her initial projects with the
17 association, she helped organize the town's first major American
18 art exhibition; and

19 WHEREAS, Mrs. Stevenson's father died in 1955, and in
20 granting one of his final requests, she set out to create a museum
21 to house his personal collection of Frederic Remington and Charles
22 Russell paintings and sculpture of the American West; the Amon
23 Carter Museum opened to the public in 1961 in a building designed by
24 eminent architect Philip Johnson; she soon saw the need to expand

1 the scope of the collection to include works in all media and from
2 all of the nation's art movements, and today, the museum is among
3 the most renowned repositories of American art, with masterworks
4 from such greats as Thomas Eakins, Winslow Homer, and Georgia
5 O'Keeffe; in addition, she encouraged the growth of the museum's
6 educational program to help students develop a deeper understanding
7 of art, culture, and related subjects; and

8 WHEREAS, This illustrious Texan further distinguished
9 herself in a multitude of organizations, including the Fort Worth
10 City Art Commission, where she served a lengthy tenure as chair; in
11 1963, she founded the Arts Council of Fort Worth and Tarrant County
12 and was appointed to the board of regents of The University of Texas
13 at Austin that same year, becoming just the second woman to sit on
14 the board; along with championing the preservation of historic
15 architecture on the university campus, she was instrumental in the
16 drive to desegregate the entire UT System; influential within the
17 state and beyond, she was active on the boards of the National
18 Endowment for the Arts and the National Trust for Historic Places
19 and became the first female member of the board, and later the first
20 female chair, of the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, An arts and civic leader of great significance and
23 lasting influence, Ruth Carter Stevenson dedicated her life to
24 sharing a rich and vital element of American culture with the Fort
25 Worth community and the world at large, and her remarkable legacy
26 will resonate long into the future; now, therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas

1 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Ruth Carter
2 Stevenson and extend sincere sympathy to the members of her family:
3 to her children, Sheila Broderick Johnson, J. Lee Johnson IV, Karen
4 Johnson Hixon, Catherine Lehane Johnson, and Mark Lehane Johnson;
5 to her 11 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren; and to her other
6 relatives and many friends; and, be it further

7 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
8 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of
9 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Ruth Carter
10 Stevenson.